Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-94-230 *30 November 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres, 'Arafat Discuss Elections, Empowerment 1
Differences on Elections Detailed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 29 Nov]* 1
Funding Delays Taxation Empowerment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Taxation, Health Authority To Transfer *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief: Lockerbie at 'Serious Point' *[London AL-HAYAH 29 Nov]* 2

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 25 Nov 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Address to UN on Solidarity Day *[Jericho VOP]* 4
'Arafat To Demand Visit to Gaza, Orient House *[MA'ARIV 28 Nov]* 5
'Arafat Asks Israel for 2,000 Policemen in Gaza *[Jerusalem TV]* 5
'Arafat Said To Have Diverted Aid Funds to Fatah *[Madrid EL MUNDO 29 Nov]* 5
Fatah: Internal Elections To Be Carried Out *[AL-QUDS 28 Nov]* 6
'Urayqat on Redeployment, Gaza Violence, Settlements *[Jerusalem International]* 6
'Urayqat: Elections Only Way To Save Peace Process *[Jericho VOP]* 7
Al-Husayni Rejects Elections Without IDF Pullout *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Hamas Publishes Anti-'Arafat Leaflet in London *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 24 Nov]* 7
Third Hamas Activist Given PA Position *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
Gaza Islamic Figure: Hamas Not 'Hostile' to PA *[AL-QUDS 25 Nov]* 8
Hamas Fugitives Said Responsible for Attacks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
'Abd-al-Shafi on PA, Hamas Role in Gaza Clash *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Nov]* 8
Hamas' Yasin Meets Knesset Member, Recognizes PLO *['AL HAMISHMAR 29 Nov]* 10
Al-Sani' To Convey Yasin's Message *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Hamas' al-Zahhar on Relations With PA *[AL-QUDS 28 Nov]* 10
Al-Zahhar: Hamas Not To Cooperate With Commission *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
Hamas Offers Conditional Dialogue With 'Arafat *[JORDAN TIMES 30 Nov]* 12
Police Chief Said Responsible for Newspaper Ban *[AL-QUDS 29 Nov]* 13
Police Chief Denies Accusation *[AFP]* 13
Reportage on Brussels Talks, 'Arafat-Peres Meetings 14
'Urayqat Comments on Aid, Meeting *[Cairo International]* 14
Commentary Views Peres-'Arafat Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 14
Finance Minister on Donor Nations *[Jerusalem International]* 15
Paper: Success Depends on Israel, Donors *[AL-QUDS 28 Nov]* 15
'Arafat Adviser Assesses Meetings *[Jericho VOP]* 16
Brussels Activities Detailed *[Jericho VOP]* 17
Sha'th Comments on Brussels Meetings *[Jerusalem International]* 17
Iranians Cable 'Arafat Condemning Embassy Attack *[Jericho VOP]* 18

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

FLN Secretary General Comments on Rome Meeting *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Ait Ahmed: Country Rejects 'Both Extremes' *[Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA 27 Nov]* 19

Security Services Eliminate Former Guemar Mayor *[Algiers Radio]* 20
French Company To Continue Insuring Loans *[Algiers Radio]* 20

Egypt

Mubarak Pleads PA Cause in French Interview *[MENA]* 20
Musa Views Palestinian Situation, Foreign Ties *[Cairo Radio]* 22
Likely Successors to Islamic Group Leadership Seen *[AL-WAFD 23 Nov]* 22
Suez Canal Head Views Decline in Revenues, Plans *[AL-MUSAWWAR 25 Nov]* 23
Accusations of Brotherhood 'Terrorism' Rebutted *[AL-SHA'B 22 Nov]* 24
Official Accuses West of Sheltering 'Terrorists' *[London AL-HAYAH 30 Nov]* 25
Envoy in Iraq Says Figures on Deaths Inaccurate *[MENA]* 26
Writer: 'Weakened' Clinton Behind 'Bias' to Israel *[AL-AHALI 23 Nov]* 26
Writer Assails U.S.-Israeli Policy, Arab Rulers *[AL-SHA'B 25 Nov]* 27
Private Sector To Set Up Venture With Morocco *[MENA]* 27

Sudan

More Peace Council Members Appointed *[Omdurman Radio]* 28
Vice President Promotes Ties With Ethiopia *[Omdurman Radio]* 28
Foreign Minister Denies Eritrean Accusations *[Omdurman Radio]* 28

Tunisia

Highlights of Draft 1995 Budget Reported *[Tunis Radio]* 28

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Interior Ministry Statement on GCC Security Accord *[Kuwait Radio]* 31

Saudi Arabia

Bosnian Foreign Minister Meets With Counterpart *[SPA]* 31
Bosnia Resolutions, 'World Anarchy' Viewed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Nov]* 32
Third Installment of Funds Transferred to PLO *[Riyadh TV]* 32

IRAQ

Official Assails UN Statements on Missing Kuwaitis *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
Embargo's Effect on Transport, Communications Reported *[AL-QADISIYAH 12 Nov]* 33
Jordanian Business Delegation Concludes Visit *[INA]* 33
SAIRI on Importance of Accord With Kurds *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 33
Opposition Figures Discuss Plans To Topple Regime *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 34
Clandestine Radio on Pilots, Officers' Arrest *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 34
Opposition Radio: Saddam Building Museum in Tikrit *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 34
Paper: U.S. 'Stands Alone' in Position on Sanctions *[INA]* 34
Arab Rulers Warned Against Pursuing U.S. Policy *[INA]* 35

ISRAEL

Jordanian Tourist, Student Groups Arrive *[Amman TV]* 36
Rabin on IDF Withdrawal, Settlement Security *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Beilin Suggests Talks on Palestinian Federation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Sarid: DOP Allows IDF To Remain in Certain Areas *[THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Nov]* 36
Ministers View Developments in Peace Process *[AFP]* 37
Zvili: People Not Willing To Share Risks of Peace *[HA'ARETZ 28 Nov]* 38
Oslo Accord Failed Security 'Reality Check' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Zvili Presented Plan To Change Labor Party Leaders *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Nov]* 38
Labor To Support Reshuffle *[Jerusalem TV]* 39
Maj. Gen. Levin Appointed Head of Northern Command *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
IDF Completes Electronic Fence Around Gaza Strip *[MA'ARIV 30 Nov]* 39
Beilin: U.S. Must Crack Down on Fundamentalists *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40

Activists Attempt To Enter Temple Mount *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Hamas Activists Arrested for Role in Bombing *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
Likud Urges Continued Control of Areas *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Hamas 'Terrorist' Caught in Janin *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Authorities Seal Houses of Wachsman Killers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Home Front Said Not Prepared for Nuclear Attack *[HA'ARETZ 25 Nov]* 41
Editorial Views 'About-Face' in Peace Policy *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 30 Nov]* 41

JORDAN

Security Chief on Israeli Withdrawal, Border Issues *[Amman Radio]* 43
Relations With PA Said in 'Profound Crisis' *[AL-DUSTUR 30 Nov]* 43
Al-'Anani on Syria, Opposition to Treaty *[AL-RAY 26 Nov]* 43

LEBANON

Council of Ministers Meets, Discusses Domestic Issues 48
Livelihood-Related Issues Not Addressed *[VOL]* 48
Political, Security Issues Discussed *[Beirut Radio]* 48
GWF Chief Issues Statement on Agreement *[VOL]* 49
Newspapers Not To Be Published Due to Strike *[Beirut Radio]* 49
Fadlallah, Columnist React to Indyk Remarks *[AL-'AHD 18 Nov]* 49
Hizballah Officials on Reopening of Bombing Case *[AL-'AHD 18 Nov]* 50
Hizballah Statement on Death of Iranian Scholar *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 51
Israelis Reportedly Refuse To Hand Over Bodies *[Beirut Radio]* 51

SYRIA

Syrian-European Cooperation Council Issues Statement *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Paper Reacts to Rabin's Washington Statements *[Damascus Radio]* 52
State Minister Meets With ICO Secretary General *[Damascus Radio]* 53

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

ICO-Sponsored Peace Talks Begin in Tehran *[Tehran TV]* 54
Several Factions Boycott ICO Peace Talks *[AFP]* 54
Hezb-e Eslami Ends Operation in Ghorband District *[Message of Freedom]* 54

India

Official: Pakistan Sending Foreign Troops to Kashmir *[Delhi TV]* 54
Ten Foreign Mercenaries Killed in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 55

Iran

Grand Ayatollah Araki Dies; Country Mourns 55
Araki Death Announced *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Cabinet Issues Statement *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Funeral Procession Held *[IRNA]* 55
Khamene'i Sends Message to Family *[IRNA]* 55
UN Rep Condoles Khamene'i *[IRNA]* 56
Yazdi Sends Message to Khamene'i *[Tehran TV]* 56
Ahmad Khomeyni Makes Appeal To 'Save the Country'
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Nov] 56
Rafsanjani Addresses Intelligence Ministry Members *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Autopsy Performed on Imprisoned Writer Sirjani *[IRNA]* 57
Bosnia's Izetbegovic Appeals for Help *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Agreement Reached To Repatriate Bosnian Refugees *[IRNA]* 57
Caspian Sea Data Bank To Be Established *[IRNA]* 58
Daily Comments on Caspian Sea Oil Deal *[IRNA]* 58
Riyadh Embassy Rejects British 'Hostile' Remarks *[IRNA]* 58

Nepal

New Government Cabinet Appointed *[AFP]* 59
New Prime Minister Holds News Conference *[AFP]* 59
Biography of New Prime Minister Outlined *[AFP]* 60

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres, 'Arafat Discuss Elections, Empowerment

Differences on Elections Detailed

TA2911125194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Makovsky and Lamia Lahoud]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and the Palestinians will find a way to resolve differences over the shape of Palestinian interim self-government council, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told European Union (EU) foreign ministers, after meeting PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday.

"The dispute between Israel and the Palestinians about the size of the council, and the type of elections for chairman of the council will not be an obstacle, but will be resolved," according to a statement Peres issued after meeting with three European foreign ministers.

Until now, the difference between the two on the size of the council has been wide. The PLO has demanded that it include close to 100 members, so it looks more like a legislature, while Israel has favored 24 to 30 members, saying this size is more befitting a body that has mainly executive and administrative functions.

There are other differences, as well. According to the statement, Peres also insisted that Israel will not allow Jerusalem Palestinians to run as candidates in any Palestinian election, while the Palestinians have demanded that such candidates be allowed.

"The Israelis understand our need for quick elections," 'Arafat said at a joint news conference with Peres. "At the same time, we have to understand their need for security," he added, referring to Israel's reluctance to withdraw its soldiers from towns in Judaea and Samaria before a Palestinian vote.

'Arafat said balloting would bring stability to the troubled Gaza Strip, and show that "the majority of our masses are supporting the peace process."

Peres told Israel Radio that Israel has agreed to international supervision of the elections.

Peres and 'Arafat agreed that the next round of autonomy talks will take place Monday in Cairo.

During Peres's meeting with the three rotating leaders of the EU—the foreign ministers of Britain, France, and Italy—and the president of the EU Commission, Jacques Delors, he discussed mobilizing financial support for the Palestinian Authority, in advance of today's international donors meeting.

The EU pledged to hike its contribution to the Palestinian Authority by $25 million a year, bringing its total participation up to $800 million over a four-year period. Some Israeli officials have hinted that Israel may be increasing its own contribution substantially—by as much as $6 million extra a month. The money would be transferred essentially as a grant, but under the guise of taxes already raised from Palestinians working in Israel.

One problem with funding the Palestinian Authority is that 'Arafat has diverted some of the money from donors to other causes, according to a senior Israeli military official.

"Two weeks ago, 'Arafat received $20 million in donors' money and diverted it to funding the operation of the Waqf in the territories," he said.

Meanwhile, EU ministers, Peres, and Jordanian Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani agreed to trilateral economic cooperation.

'Arafat told reporters that the Palestinians have received only $60 million of the approximate $700 million that had been pledged by the 34 donor states. According to 'Arafat, the EU has done more than anyone else to channel money to the Palestinians.

He also charges than Hamas did.

However, other Palestinian negotiators were not taking Hamas strength for granted. One negotiator said privately that the Palestinians are asking to increase the number of policemen and want to ask for heavier weapons and more equipment. One of the negotiators said that Hamas could easily outnumber the police force.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said that Britain is ready to contribute another 5 million pounds to the Palestinian Police to help pay for further training and equipment.

Gen. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, co-chairman of the joint Palestinian-Israeli security committee, said the Palestinians are asking for an early deployment of their police in Palestinian population centers to ensure security and public order during the elections.

"We cannot accept that once the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has evacuated Palestinian population centers and our police have been deployed there, the Israeli troops will return after the elections," he said.

Funding Delays Taxation Empowerment

TA2911171294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior security source told us a few minutes ago that the transfer of taxation and health authorities to the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria, scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed until further notice. This followed an agreement between the representatives of Israel and the Palestinians made during the meeting of the donor countries in Brussels. It

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appears that there are still problems with financing the empowerment. We will update you as soon as we learn of a new date.

Also, security sources reported that the defense establishment has issued an additional 5,000 work permits for construction workers from the territories. Some 3,400 of them will come from Gaza, and 1,600 from Judaea and Samaria. This puts the number of Palestinian construction workers allowed in Israel at 20,000.

Taxation, Health Authority To Transfer

TA3011055694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel is due to turn over authority for taxation and health in the West Bank to the Palestinians tomorrow. The transfer of the two outstanding spheres of early empowerment was due to have taken place yesterday, but army sources said the Palestinians asked for a delay because of a severe cash shortage.

The Palestinian Authority assumed responsibility for education, social welfare, and tourism in the West Bank earlier this year.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief: Lockerbie at 'Serious Point'

MM2911155094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Bari'ah 'Alam al-Din: " 'Abd-al-Majid: Lockerbie at Standstill"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—In a meeting held at midday yesterday, Monday, with Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign affairs, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid called for looking to the future when searching for an acceptable solution to the Lockerbie issue and the Western embargo imposed on Libya. 'Abd-al-Majid urged the British Government to support the efforts exerted to find a compromise on this issue. However, he came out of his meeting with Minister Hogg with an impression confirming the differing views concerning this issue between the West and those advocating a settlement with Libya.

Following his meeting with Minister Hogg the Arab League secretary general spoke in a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents Association in London about the aims of his visit to Britain, the results of his meeting with minister Hogg, and the schedule of his official and political contacts during the visit.

He said that he discussed with Minister Hogg several Arab issues, including developments in the peace process, the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, developments in the draft agreement on the Golan and southern Lebanon, the Lockerbie issue, the situation in the Gulf, and Iraq's recognition of the State of Kuwait and its borders.

He said that discussions with Hogg concerning the Lockerbie issue confirmed the wide gap between positions. He said that he explained to Minister Hogg the League's position on this issue, and that he stressed to Hogg that the Arab side considers the Lockerbie incident "a real disaster." He understands the position of the victims' families and the governments concerned. "But it is necessary that we look to the future and work to bring views closer in order to agree on an acceptable compromise, lest we all reach an impasse."

He added that the Lockerbie issue "has reached a serious point, and we must cooperate to find a solution to it."

He said: "Libya will not accept any dishonorable solution. What it accepts is that the suspects stand trial in accordance with Scottish law in a neutral state like Switzerland. Scottish law permits three verdicts, instead of two as under British law. Besides, there is no extradition treaty between Britain and Libya."

He confirmed that Britain rejected this proposal in the past, and that its position has not changed. He said that Minister Hogg will visit Egypt next week, and that he will continue the talks with him on this issue.

Asked about the economic conference held in Morocco, in which Israel participated, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: "The conference was a very important event with regard to addressing economic issues. But we in the Arab League believe that priority should be given to political issues and problems. Then we can pay attention to the economic issues, so that we will not put the cart before the horse. What should be done first is to conclude a just peace agreement between both Syria and Lebanon and Israel before discussing laying the foundations for economic cooperation among the region's states on the basis of equality—not hegemony, domination, or exploitation by Israel. And we should not fear the establishment of a Middle Eastern market, because it will not pose any threat to Arab cooperation and the Arab League system, nor will it affect the Arab states' feeling of security and safety, because these states do not suffer any shortage of human and material resources, and their economy will not be threatened by a state with 4 million inhabitants like Israel."

Answering a question put to him by an Israeli radio correspondent in London about the date of canceling the Arab first-degree boycott of Israel, the secretary general said that the "Arab League's position on this issue is clear and known. Ending the full boycott of Israel is linked to reaching an agreement on a just and comprehensive peace between the Arabs and Israel. The Israelis must embark on steps contributing to building trust after a just and comprehensive solution until the boycott disappears with the disappearance of the war."

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He pointed out that he discussed with Minister Hogg Iraq's recognition of Kuwait. "We agreed that this recognition represents an important step. I stressed the need for Iraq to comply with all the international resolutions so that the Iraqi people's tragedy would end and Iraq return to the the Arab fold."

He stressed "the Arab League's support for the United Arab Emirates' position on the three islands issue. It considers these islands [Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa] an integral part of the Emirates. The League rejects and condemns the Iranian occupation of the islands, and it supports the idea of solving this problem peacefully."

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 25 Nov

NC2911124794

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 25 November AL-SHA'B edition of the Arabic-language newspaper that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Hamas Spokesman Warns of 'Further Crises' in Gaza
2. Suspected Mosad Agents Storm Mosque in Egypt
3. Labor Party Leader Voices Support for Bosnian People's Jihad
4. Seven Prisoners Die Under Torture
5. Egypt Fears Growing Islamic Influence on Northeastern Border
6. Tunisian Party Leader Urges Support for Palestinian Intifadah
7. Writer Criticizes Weak Arab Situation, U.S. Plan
8. Veiled Female Students Expelled From School
9. Writer Defends Muslim Brotherhood

Hamas Spokesman Warns of 'Further Crises' in Gaza

In an approximately 560-word report on pages 1 and 6 by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah is quoted as telling AL-SHA'B that Gaza will witness 'further crises' because of 'Arafat's government and Fatah officials' escalation of the situation.

Suspected Mosad Agents Storm Mosque in Egypt

A 250-word report on pages 1 and 6 by Subhi Buhayri states: "Three people suspected of being Israeli Mosad agents in Cairo last week stormed the al-Tawhid Mosque situated under the flat of the family of 'Isam al-Jawhari, the Egyptian who was martyred in Jerusalem." The report adds that the three men tried to attack the mosque's imam and worshippers and notes that "they claimed that one of them was an American who acted on instructions from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo." The "martyr's family" used force to prevent the suspects from entering the flat and residents in the area assembled to attack the suspects, who fled, the report says.

Labor Party Leader Voices Support for Bosnian People's Jihad

An unattributed 300-word report on pages 1 and 6 indicates that Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri and other party officials met "last Monday" with the deputy mayor of Sarajevo. Shukri affirmed to the deputy mayor the Labor Party and all the Egyptian people's support for the Bosnian people's jihad.

Seven Prisoners Die Under Torture

Hamdi Taha reports from Aswan that "the number of detainees in Aswan Governorate who die under torture in prison is on the increase." The 200-word report on page 1 names seven detainees killed recently in prison.

Egypt Fears Growing Islamic Influence on Northeastern Border

In a 350-word report on page 1, Muna Yasin comments on President Mubarak's recent European tour and his emphasis on the need for aid to the Palestinians. While blaming the donor nations and noting the consequences of delaying the aid, the reporter says the Egyptian leadership, for the first time, has used phrases such as the following referring to "the overthrow of 'Arafat" and "turning Gaza into another Afghanistan."

The report adds: "Observers say this is a sign of the possibility that the situation in Gaza may lead to the Islamic movements, led by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, assuming power in Gaza. Egypt's latest fear is a growing Islamic influence on its northeastern border in addition to the Islamic influence inside the country."

Tunisian Party Leader Urges Support for Palestinian Intifadah

Tunisian Ennahda Movement leader Rachid Ghanouchi writes an approximately 1,100-word article on page 4, denouncing Israeli measures in Palestine and the Arab situation, which is marked by two features: "a heroic popular steadfastness through the intifadah and a humiliating capitulatory line through what is known as the peaceful settlement."

He says the PLO has deviated from the "revolution's course" and preferred a peaceful settlement over national struggle because of its "secular background," separation from the people, and association with regional and international alliances. He adds that the Ennahda Movement rejects the peaceful settlement plan and urges the intifadah vanguards in Palestine to be patient and adhere to God's teaching.

Writer Criticizes Weak Arab Situation, U.S. Plan

In an approximately 1,400-word article on page 5, Jamal As'ad criticizes the weak Arab situation that "began with the Camp David Accord" and notes what he calls U.S. anti-Arab policy.

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After reviewing the peace process with Israel and the United States' "insistence" on not lifting the sanctions against Iraq, he asks: Is this the only bad aspect of the Arab situation? He answers: "I believe there are other aspects linked with the U.S. plan of blockading and isolating Sudan from the rest of the world to overthrow the Sudanese regime, partition Sudan, and grant self-determination to the south."

Commenting on the "blockade" of Libya, he says: "The situation has reached a shameful point, with the United States asking Egypt not to have dealings with its sister and neighbor Libya. He asks: "Have we reached this level of humiliation? How can we reach this degree of humiliation in return for U.S. aid?" He then asks: "Why don't we, the Arabs, unite to face the United States and uncover its partiality and domination? Don't you know that the United States has duplicitous policies and 1,000 faces and that its only concern is its own interest? Will we remain captive to our despotic ruling regimes and shaken, frightened rulers who are submissive to the United States so that it can ensure their protection and survival?"

Veiled Female Students Expelled From School

In a 120-word report on page 6, 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il says a Cairo Education Ministry official has issued instructions to an al-Faruq Islamic school for languages to expel 50 veiled female students.

Writer Defends Muslim Brotherhood

Page 9 features a 1,300-word article by Muhammad al-Murshidi, who responds to an AL-AHRAM article that he says "alienated the government against the Muslim Brotherhood."

Al-Murshidi refutes the claims mentioned in the AL-AHRAM article, saying that an "established thought in hearts and souls" cannot be eliminated by the authorities' suppression, no matter how strong, and that the example of this is clear in Algeria and Egypt. He adds: "We would like to stress that we are against political assassination in any circumstance and regard it as a futile political method."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Address to UN on Solidarity Day

JN2911200994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1750 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Address by Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, read on his behalf by Nasir al-Qudwah, Palestinian representative at the United Nations, at the celebration held by the International Committee of the United Nations in observance of the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People in New York on 29 November—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Ladies and gentlemen, friends and honorable guests:

Greetings. On the occasion of the meeting you are holding today to mark the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People, 29 November, I am pleased to send to you—on behalf of the Palestinian people and on behalf of my brothers, the members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian National Authority, and in my name—my heartfelt greetings, wishes, and appreciation for inviting me to attend and address this solidarity meeting.

I would also like to express to you personally, to your respected committee, and to the United Nations and its secretary general, our heartfelt appreciation for the ceaseless, sincere efforts which you are still exerting, as well as the great solidarity activities which you have been carrying out, in support of our Palestinian people's just struggle to end the Israeli occupation of their land and holy places and to restore their national inalienable rights, particularly their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has, over the past years, intensified solidarity activities. This had great influence on organizing, mobilizing, and expanding international support for and solidarity with our Palestinian people's just struggle. We highly praise this effort, which will continue to be highly appreciated and respected by our people.

Our people, who are facing these difficult and decisive circumstances, are in need, more than at any time before, of such good activities and efforts, particularly in this delicate stage which constitutes a decisive turning point in the march of their just struggle and in the history of the region. In this region, our Palestinian people have embarked on the construction process to set up their vital facilities and national institutions, as well as to rebuild their economy and infrastructure to entrench the pillars and structure of their national authority so that just and comprehensive peace will be stable and strengthened in Palestine and the region—that is the peace of the brave, which is based on good neighborly relations, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence.

This peace should ensure all rights, security, stability, and prosperity to all peoples and countries of the region. To the Palestinian people, this peace should ensure ending the Israeli occupation of their land and shrines and restoring and exercising their inalienable national rights. Your esteemed committee is the best defender of these rights and is acting to secure these rights and to see that these rights are practiced on the ground. This requires an Israeli commitment to what has been agreed on with us in the Declaration of Principles, signed in

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Washington on 13 September 1993, and the Cairo agreement, signed on 4 May 1994, and the subsequent agreements. Israel should also stop procrastinating in implementing the articles of these agreements and ignoring some of these articles.

In this context, the two sponsors of the peace conference in particular, and the European Union and the international community in general, all shoulder a great responsibility in urging the Israeli Government to fulfill its promises and to continue quick, accurate, and honest implementation of all agreements concluded on the Palestinian-Israeli track. This is the ideal solution and the only way to face extremist and fanatic trends and confront the enemies of peace on the land of peace—the holy land of Palestine. Otherwise, the danger will threaten the first steps that we made toward establishing a real Palestinian-Israeli peace that will be the key to, and the solid base for, comprehensive peace in the region.

The donor states are asked to accelerate fulfilling their financial commitments to our people so that out people will be able to move ahead in the march of construction, end the bitter suffering of their sons, and feel the fruits and benefits of the peace process, to which they committed themselves and have determined to continue firmly and insistently until they realize the objectives they seek from it, including their right to freedom, independence, and sovereignty.

We are certain that all fraternal and friendly peoples and countries and the lovers of peace, justice, and freedom in the world will continue to firmly support our people and to express their principled solidarity with them, and will increase their support to them until the peace of the brave to which we committed ourselves is realized in the name of our people, and whose fruits will be felt by our people, all peoples and countries of the region, and all world peoples.

Hence, we hope that your esteemed committee, which has never failed to make every efforts and which has successfully carried out its tasks, will continue to carry out this noble mission and intensify its activities in support of the just struggle of our people and urge the international community to extend more support for our Palestinian people and express solidarity with them in their hard and long march in order to realize real peace on our land—the blessed land of peace.

I salute you and I thank you, and I wish success for your esteemed committee in its noble missions.

'Arafat To Demand Visit to Gaza, Orient House

TA2811114894 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by 'Ada Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Official visitors from abroad wishing to visit Gaza receive an unequivocal answer from Yasir 'Arafat: The visit is conditional on a visit to Orient House in Jerusalem.

The Foreign Ministry has received requests to "coordinate agendas" for guests due to pay official visits to Israel. A foreign government, which made such a request, informed the Foreign Ministry that Chairman 'Arafat conditions the guest's visit to Gaza on a visit to Orient House. The Foreign Ministry was stunned by the demand and has informed the government in question that it is unacceptable and that the two cannot be linked.

'Arafat Asks Israel for 2,000 Policemen in Gaza

TA2711192794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Nov 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat wants to deploy 2,000 more Palestinian policemen in the Gaza Strip. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that according to sources in Gaza, 'Arafat is awaiting Israeli approval of this request, as well as another request he made to equip the Palestinian police with DShK-38 machine guns.

'Arafat is apparently interested in transferring the Badr brigade, which is currently deployed in Jordan, to the Gaza Strip, despite the fact that Brigadier Qudsiyyah, the brigade commander, in the past accused 'Arafat of discriminating against his men.

'Arafat Said To Have Diverted Aid Funds to Fatah

BR2911151194 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 29 Nov 94 p 24

[Report by Ramy Wurgaft: "'Arafat Accused of Diverting to Lebanon Millions of Dollars Intended for Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem—The independent organization Peace Watch accuses Palestinian Autonomous Entity President Yasir 'Arafat of having diverted to his supporters in Lebanon a high proportion of the donations from the Holst Memorial—a Norwegian fund set up to help the inhabitants of Gaza.

In a report drafted by Israeli journalist Pinhas Inbari, Peace Watch—an apolitical body monitoring the implementation of the peace accord between Israel and Palestine—alleges that 'Arafat transferred $13 million (1.69 billion pesetas) to the Fatah leadership in southern Lebanon.

In a telephone conversation with EL MUNDO, Pinhas Inbari claimed to have irrefutable proof that the money reached the hands of Isham Al Badri [name as published], commander of Fatah's armed militias at the Ein El Hilwe [as published] refugee camp and a confidant of Yasir 'Arafat.

Over the past few days, Fatah and the radical groups opposed to Yasir 'Arafat have been waging a fight to the

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death for control over Ein El Hilwe; a locality in southern Lebanon in which 80,000 Palestinians live.

The fall of that populous bastion would represent an irreversible defeat for Fatah; the movement which 'Arafat set up in 1958 and which is still the basis of his political and military power. Thanks to the arms consignments and the financial contributions from Syria, the balance of forces in Ein El Hilwe was tilting dangerously in favor of the radical organizations.

" 'Arafat apparently opted for sacrificing the well-being of his fellow-countrymen in Gaza and his own reputation in order to ensure his hegemony in the camps in Lebanon," Pinhas Inbari stated.

The Peace Watch report could not have been published at a more inopportune moment for 'Arafat. The autonomous entity's donor countries are meeting in Brussels today in order to discuss "the opening of all the credit lines," with the aim of alleviating the terrible economic crisis affecting Gaza. Owing to the delays suffered by foreign aid, the Strip now suffers a deficit of around $14 million, which prevents, for instance, paying wages to the police.

The Peace Watch report could change Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' intention to seek a contribution of $150 million from the autonomous entity's financial backers.

Peres believes that, without that sum, Gaza will sink, dragging the Palestinian-Israeli peace accord down with it. 'Arafat, who traveled to Brussels yesterday, intended to present to the autonomous entity's sponsors a detailed report on the situation experienced by Gaza and the resources needed to make it viable.

The Palestinian Government spokesmen does not doubt that the report drafted by journalist Pinhas Inbari is attributable to a conspiracy.

Marwan Kanafani [name as published], 'Arafat's secretary, told EL MUNDO yesterday: "There is somebody in the Israeli leadership who has set out to sabotage the autonomous entity."

Fatah: Internal Elections To Be Carried Out

TA2811164294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Nov 94 pp 1, 22

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Marwan al-Barghuthi, secretary of the Higher Fatah Committee in the occupied territories, has stressed that Fatah is determined to carry out its internal elections as soon as possible.

In a statement to AL-QUDS, al-Barghuthi said that this is a genuine issue in Fatah's Constitution and that the internal organization inside the homeland was deprived of this right for over 27 years because of the conditions of occupation.

He added: "The time has come when we can exercise the right that is guaranteed by the Constitution. There are no arguments in Fatah's ranks about the principle of internal elections. On the contrary, there is a consensus on it."

Al-Barghuthi stressed that, after the conditions and reasons for holding regional conferences are formulated, these conferences will be convened within the next few weeks and that preparatory committees are working earnestly in all regions to prepare for the conferences. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat on Redeployment, Gaza Violence, Settlements

JN2711152794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local administration in the Palestinian Authority, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Urayqat] There is no provision in the Declaration of Principles [DOP] for a redeployment [of Israeli troops in the West Bank] for three days, [the duration anticipated for legislative elections there]. This is another example of Israel's procrastination. The idea itself is impractical. Do you expect the Israeli military to leave Hebron, Ramallah, or Nabulus and then return? This idea is part of Israel's continuing foot-dragging over the implementation of the interim stage. This is totally unacceptable. Redeployment means that the Israeli troops must not return to the areas they vacate.

[Mu'addi] Then how will it be possible to ensure law and order in the areas to be vacated by the Israeli Defense Forces [IDF]?

['Urayqat] There is a provision in the DOP calling for deployment of the Palestinian forces in these areas; they will handle law and order. The Palestinian security personnel are quite capable of taking care of security.

[Mu'addi] But look at what has been happening in Gaza, since the IDF's pullout?

['Urayqat] What has happened in the Gaza strip? True, last Friday's [18 November] incidents were tragic, but they have been contained. Yesterday, you saw an opposition rally in Gaza. It was an instance of civilized behavior. There is nothing wrong with peaceful rallies that take place within the framework of democracy and political pluralism. We wish Arab states took their cue from us and allowed the opposition the same freedom of expression.

[Mu'addi] Can the Palestinian police, in your opinion, assure security and protection for settlers and settlements if and when the IDF pulls out?

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['Urayqat] The DOP stated that settler and settlement security, in the interim stage, is Israel's responsibility. However, we have said all along, right from the start of the Madrid conference, that settlements must be an item on the agenda, seeing that they are virtual time bombs likely to explode at any minute and torpedo the peace process. The Israelis, however, would not budge from their position. The DOP's weakest points are holding the settlement issue until the final status negotiations and making the settlers and settlements Israel's charge.

'Urayqat: Elections Only Way To Save Peace Process

JN2511171694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local administration in the National Authority [NA], has said that holding elections in the occupied West Bank and the NA areas is the only way to save the peace process. Dr. 'Urayqat held Israel responsible for delaying the [election] process. He added: Any delay in the redeployment of the Israeli occupation forces and in holding elections is a waste of time with regard to the achievement of peace.

Al-Husayni Rejects Elections Without IDF Pullout

TA3011142594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni firmly rejects the prime minister's remarks that Israel should examine the possibility of holding elections in Judaea and Samaria without the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawing from the city centers. Sources in the defense establishment say the Palestinians have tried to deploy police forces in the West Bank cities under the guise of urban police. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] Palestinian leaders were angered by Prime Minister Rabin's remarks in Hebron to the effect that Israel should examine the possibility of holding elections without the IDF's withdrawing from the center of large West Bank cities. The Palestinians feel that Israel is trying to wriggle out of implementing the second stage of the Oslo agreement. Faysal al- Husayni yesterday returned from a lecture tour in the United States:

[Al-Husayni] First, this contradicts the agreement; it is impossible, and it contradicts the concept of free elections.

[Ben-Menahem] If this issue is raised in the Cairo negotiations next week, what will you tell the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] We will not accept this. Whoever comes up with such a proposal is in effect saying there will be no elections.

[Ben-Menahem] How do the Palestinians propose to conduct the elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Husayni] The Israeli army must withdraw from all cities and Palestinian population centers. We could use our own police force, as well as international observers who can help us hold our first elections successfully.

[Ben-Menahem] Security sources believe the Palestinians have tried to create facts on the ground by introducing Palestinian police forces into the large West Bank cities in the guise of urban police, despite the fact that the IDF has still not withdrawn from the city centers. A group of Nabulus municipal supervisors underwent a one-month weapons and karate course in a Palestinian police camp in Jericho. This morning, Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, will meet with Nabulus Mayor Ghassan al-Shak'ah in order to explain to him the defense establishment's decision to ban the urban police force operating in the city streets. Ghassan al-Shak'ah is angry and threatens:

[Al-Shak'ah, in English] We will go to the high court, as I said. We will go to the members of the Knesset. As I told you, resigning is one of the alternatives.

[Ben-Menahem] Security sources say that the defense establishment's decision on this issue is final. The sources say that a Palestinian police force in Judaea and Samaria will operate only on the basis of future agreements with the Palestinians. [end recording]

Hamas Publishes Anti-'Arafat Leaflet in London

TA2411110194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Nov 94 p 7

[Report by Mati Kay in London]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is expanding its propaganda activities beyond the territories. A leaflet by the organization harshly attacking the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat was distributed yesterday to newspapers in London.

The Hamas leaflet holds the Palestinian police responsible for the killing of 13 demonstrators last Friday [18 November] in Gaza, declaring: "The blood of our children will haunt 'Arafat forever." This is the first time that Hamas has made use of media abroad to relay messages to the territories. The leaflet is written in English, carries the organization's symbol, and is signed by a body called the Information Office. Among other things, it claims that Hamas has "responded positively" to the mediation attempts by "sincere Palestinian personages" but that the autonomy authority "is sabotaging every effort to solve the crisis."

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Third Hamas Activist Given PA Position

TA2711095194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Another Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist from Judaea and Samaria was given a role in the administration of Palestinian Authority [PA].

Palestinian sources tell our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Shaykh Taysir al-Tamimi of Hebron was appointed chief supervisor of the Shar'iyah courts in the West Bank. Shaykh al-Tamimi is the deputy head of the League of Palestinians Theologians, the leading Hamas religious body in the West Bank. He was recently released from the administrative detention he was serving for activity in the Hamas framework.

Several weeks ago, two other Hamas activists were given roles in the PA religious apparatus.

Gaza Islamic Figure: Hamas Not 'Hostile' to PA

TA2811142194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Salih Abu-Hamad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—Dr. Ibrahim al-Yazuri, an Islamic figure close to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], yesterday denied that the movement bears any hostile intentions toward the Palestinian Authority [PA]. He said: "We in the Islamic Movement are very keen to avoid spilling a drop of Palestinian blood."

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, al-Yazuri added: "Since their arrival to the homeland's soil, we welcomed the Palestinian police personnel as an inseparable part of the Palestinian people. Moreover, our known position rejects any Palestinian infighting, which serves only the enemies of the Palestinian people, who have suffered long years under the Israeli occupation."

Al-Yazuri considered last Friday's [18 November] events to be a grave indication in the life of the Palestinian people and said that all efforts must be exerted to avoid their repetition.

He called on the Palestinian people not to provide an opportunity for the provocation of sedition and clashes between the sons of one people and urged them to unite their ranks and cooperate in the interest of the homeland and its citizens.

With regard to the Islamic Movement's position on the expected elections, al-Yazuri said: "We reject any elections linked to the Oslo accord and the agreements that have followed it." He expressed his belief that there will be no real representational elections for the Palestinian people because of the numerous restrictions imposed by the Oslo accord.

Hamas Fugitives Said Responsible for Attacks

TA2911073394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The hardcore of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which carries out terror attacks in Jerusalem, Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria, includes 17 men wanted by Israel. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says half of those 17 are residents of the Gaza Strip that also operate in Judaea and Samaria. Security sources say the number of activists in Hamas who are wanted are increasing.

'Abd-al-Shafi on PA, Hamas Role in Gaza Clash

MM2911113094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 94 p3

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, prominent Palestinian Gaza figure and former chief Palestinian negotiator, by unidentified correspondent in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Friday's incidents were expected from the start. Why did the Palestinian Authority [PA] not try to prevent the explosion?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The explosive situation began to emerge after the Oslo agreement because that agreement ran counter to the requirements of a just peace and it was bound to lead to this situation. The Palestinian people were divided. Some supported the agreement and others opposed it. After the Cairo agreement and the advent of the PA in the autonomy areas, there was a fait accompli. Because the current peace process has no credibility, the people could not tolerate it any more. The Islamic parties basically opposed to the peace process saw a chance to demonstrate their presence, and with the PA committed to the implementation of the agreement and its provisions, a crisis developed between the PA and Hamas, whose actions are popular among the Palestinians.

So long as the PA is committed to the agreements, it cannot avoid the natural results of that. On the other hand, the PA is the internationally recognized body. Hamas claims a leading position in the country and the PA sees that claim as a serious challenge. All these matters have led us to infighting and bloodshed. I believe every person responsible for the spilling of even a single drop of blood should be punished if convicted after investigation. I maintain that every Palestinian, regardless of his political affiliation, has a right to use all means, including armed struggle, to get rid of the occupation, but the timing of action is of extreme importance. The world supports the peace process and, although Israel is obstructing that process, we would be blamed for destroying the one and only peace process and we would be held responsible for its failure. Because of these factors, I am not happy about Hamas' armed actions three or four months after [the PA took over].

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The PA is facing not only Hamas but all the Palestinian people. The PA is perplexed even without any confrontation with Hamas or anyone else.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are the grounds for the claim that the events were instigated from abroad, and what is meant by abroad? Can that foreign element activate people in the streets as in the case of the incidents of last Friday?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That remains just talk until proven with evidence. It may be that the aim of the claim is to ward off suspicions aimed at certain internal parties. I personally do not pay any attention to claims of that kind. I wait for the results of the investigations. I am not prepared to accept matters at face value.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Whenever there is a clash between Fatah and Hamas in Gaza, mediation takes place to disengage them, and then the clashes are renewed after a while. Is there a final solution that would end the disputes between the two sides?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The only solution is legislative elections that would give power to the people and prevent infighting. The absence of an authority enjoying the people's trust leaves the door open for each party to claim that it is the only party which has the people's confidence.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you envisage the future election program and its requirements?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We insist on all the necessary controls to ensure fulfillment of the will of the masses. This means that the election program and system should be submitted to the people who could then give their views through coordination committees. That would ensure approval of a program acceptable to the public. It may even be necessary to hold a referendum on the program.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How can the independent figures influence the political balance of power in the Palestinian arena?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I believe that the independent figures have an important part to play on the issue of the elections by ensuring that they are honest and democratic elections based on sound foundations for a true expression of society's will.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Have you not considered forming some organization that would bring together all the independents?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We are indeed considering formation of a "democratic construction movement" that would not be of a political or partisan nature because a political partisan body would have specific and agreed views, a mechanism, and a program. The political position of the independent forces is rather special. If they want to form a movement then they are bound to influence political life. People with party affiliations would be entitled to join the movement which would be called "the democratic construction movement."

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] In view of the current situation, how do you view Hamas' future?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I see Hamas as a political movement and it should be treated as such. It has an Islamic ideology. Like other Palestinian political fronts and movements, it has a right to choose its own ideology. Personally, I am in favor of secularism. I believe that there can be no military solution to the Palestinian question. Realistically, the only solution lies in peace and the establishment of our own independent state and recognition of the state of Israel and its right to exist. Hamas rejects that and, therefore, has no option other than the military option and the termination of Israel's existence. As you can see, Hamas' military solution is illogical and out of the question unless unexpected developments and changes occur in the world.

That does not make me completely partial. I have a vision of all the political forces getting together despite fundamental differences regarding the final solution. As an independent, I feel that I can be in alliance with Hamas and that we can work together in the phase of national liberation.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] A number of Hamas officials have said that they intend to form a Palestinian Islamic party. How do you view that development?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Perhaps Hamas feels that that is the reality. In actual fact, Hamas is a political party which they call a movement. In reality it is already an existing political party.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Will all the talk about formation of a fact-finding committee to punish those responsible for Friday's [18 November] incidents produce any objective results?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That would depend on who is in such a committee, their moral standards, and to what extent the people trust them. There are two committees anyway, one of them judicial. I have heard some of the names mentioned. I believe many people trust them. As regards the fact-finding committee, I do not know the names of its members so far but I understand that all the political trends will be represented in it.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Fatah has announced the formation of seven committees from its members in the Gaza Strip. Their aim is to support the Palestinian police in facing any attack on PA members. How do you view that development?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That is a very negative measure. I do not approve of it. It runs contrary to the values and principles we advocate. The PA should create an atmosphere of self-expression, not silence people. Also, Fatah's muscle-flexing processions were a negative move.

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[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you support the opposition's nonparticipation in or boycott of the forthcoming legislative elections?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not agree with absolute refusal. If there was an electoral law fulfilling all the requirements of the Palestinian situation, then I would urge everyone to participate in the elections.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Will you participate in the legislative elections?

['Abd-al-Shafi] If the elections proceed in an acceptable manner, then I would participate as a voter or a candidate.

Hamas' Yasin Meets Knesset Member, Recognizes PLO

TA2911121894 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Rami Shani]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting with Knesset Member [MK] Talib al-Sani' yesterday, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the jailed leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], condemned the terrorist attack on Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street. Yasin said that "it was a regrettable incident," and noted that "harming of innocent people contravened the tenets of Islam."

Shaykh Yasin added that Israel could not accuse Hamas of committing crimes because the organization's members were merely fighting for the rights denied them by Israel.

Shaykh Yasin welcomed reconciliation between the various Palestinian factions in the Gaza Strip.

As for the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip, the ailing shaykh said that they were the result of 'Arafat's desire to demonstrate his power and authority to Israel and the donor countries and to emphasize the threat facing him if he failed.

Yasin also said that the Palestinians should stop fighting among themselves as they have already suffered enough under the Israeli occupation. "What happened in Gaza crossed all the red lines," the shaykh asserted.

MK al-Sani' recounted that the shaykh recognized that there must be one law for everybody. Al-Sani' said that the shaykh had told him that the opposition recognized the PLO regime, and noted the fact that supporters of the opposition were seeking work permits from the Palestinian Authority.

Al-Sani' announced that he had requested a meeting with Prime Minister Rabin in a bid to convince the latter to effect an early release of the jailed shaykh. Al-Sani' explained that as long as the shaykh remained in prison, people hostile to Israel would continue to attack Jews.

Al-Sani' To Convey Yasin's Message

JN2911202194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Talab al-Sani', head of the Arab Democratic Party and member of the Israeli Knesset, said today that he visited Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, [leader of Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas] in his prison in Kefar Yona.

Al-Sani' said that Shaykh Yasin emphasized his rejection of the incidents that took place in Gaza. Shaykh Yasin called on the Palestinian people to preserve the Palestinian achievements and the national unity and to solve problems through dialogue. He said the Palestinian opposition has the right to express its positions and the authority should guarantee these rights.

Shaykh Yasin asked the opposition to respect the rights of the Palestinian Authority and the law because the authority is the protective shield of the people and the homeland.

Talab al-Sani' said Shaykh Ahmad Yasin asked him to convey two messages—one to President Yasir 'Arafat and the other to Hamas Movement leaders.

Hamas' al-Zahhar on Relations With PA

TA2911194694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Nov 94 pp 4, 22

[Interview with Hamas leader Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar by Nasir Mahmud al-Sawir in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Sawir] Is it true that the real reason for postponing the rally that was scheduled to be held last Friday [25 November] was that the Palestinian Authority [PA] had ordered it?

[Al-Zahhar] Since when has Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] received its orders from the PA? Bad weather conditions and the fact that the ground on which the rally was to be held was flooded and unsuitable led to the rally's postponement.

[Al-Sawir] Whom do you accuse of firing at the homes of Islamic figures, and what is the aim of this behavior?

[Al-Zahhar] Clearly, they are collaborators who seek to destroy the partial and limited agreement [with the PA]. The masses have become accustomed to exposing these collaborators. The evidence of this is the garbage heaps of the occupied territories.

[Al-Sawir] Is it true that the agreement reached stipulating that no elements can carry weapons in the streets except the PA's personnel is a prelude to disarming Hamas and handing over its weapons to the PA?

[Al-Zahhar] First of all the suggestion is incorrect. The talk is about banning armed demonstrations in a mass rally. It should, however, be very clear that as long as one inch of Palestinian land remains occupied, it is a crime

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to talk of disarming or actually disarming any Palestinian regardless of the accusations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sawir] The PA and Fatah regarded the widespread presence of the masses in the rallies held in Jericho and Gaza as a popular referendum reflecting the PA's credibility in the Palestinian street. Do you agree?

[Al-Zahhar] If this claim is true, the result is not to the benefit of the police. Bringing out 5 or 10 thousand people on the request of Mr. 'Arafat and with the help of Fatah is a vote of no confidence in the PA and Fatah. Everyone knows how small these figures are compared with some of the marches in support of the Islamic Movement. For example, more than 50,000 residents participated in the funeral ceremony of martyr Nasir Salluhah. This is just an example. We should not adopt the policy of bringing out people to the streets to express the manifestations of power and violence, because this game is a fertile ground for collaborators. Let us search for other means beside muscle flexing in the streets.

[Al-Sawir] In your view, how can we prevent the repetition of clashes like those that occurred on that sad Friday [18 November]?

[Al-Zahhar] This is possible, and enormous efforts are being exerted toward this end. We hope that these efforts will bear fruit in the future.

[Al-Sawir] You hastened to mediate between President 'Arafat and the Jihad Movement in the wake of what happened during martyr Hani 'Abid's funeral. Why should Hamas and the PA not solve their differences through understanding and dialogue in order to avoid clashes and the fall of victims?

[Al-Zahhar] Even in the massacre of 18 November we played the same role as mediators between the excited masses, who were responding to the bullets of the PA's men with stones, whether in Filastin Mosque, al-Saraya District, or the center of al-Shuja'iyah. Consequently, our role will not change under any conditions and, God willing, it will remain so.

[Al-Sawir] Many Hamas elements have reportedly left the movement's ranks and joined the PA's organs. They claim that the movement is illogical in dealing with the current stage. Is this correct?

[Al-Zahhar] I ask anyone who claims this to support his statement with figures and names. Fatah was launched 30 years ago and is now witnessing bloody and quiet struggles between its various factions and currents. Most or rather all present factions and organizations have witnessed consecutive splits and divisions. This does not apply at all to Hamas. Hamas is still one solid bloc with one name, one leadership, one program, and the same principles and goals. Consequently, anyone who makes that statement is expressing his own hopes but not the reality at all.

[Al-Sawir] You are very well aware that it is illogical for two authorities to function simultaneously in any country. You insist on ignoring the PA and what it committed itself to when it signed the agreements with Israel. You have created numerous dilemmas for the PA. What does Hamas want to achieve at this stage, and what is its aim in pursuing this approach?

[Al-Zahhar] First of all, we have told Nasr Yusuf, Amin al-Hindi, and many other key figures in the PA that we are not competing with the PA and will not participate in it. Second, we have engaged the PA in solving all the problems that have appeared in the arena, such as the events in Rafah, which resulted in the martyrdom of Yasri al-Hums. We have organized many demonstrations and marches with the knowledge of the PA. Hamas has not embarrassed the PA with even one incident. On the contrary, the PA embarrassed and harmed itself when it responded to Rabin's requests and detained the sons of Hamas after the abduction of the Israeli soldier. This showed the PA's error in dealing with Rabin's pressure. Despite this, the PA is still detaining individuals without having proof, a legal document, or a reason. All the accusations in your question do not apply to Hamas. As for attacking the occupation centers in the Gaza Strip, this is something that we had said we would do before and during the signing of the PLO's agreements with Israel. The PA was well aware of this in advance when it came to Gaza and Jericho, yet it ignored this matter completely.

[Al-Sawir] It is being said in the Palestinian street that if Hamas does not participate in the expected elections it will be the biggest loser. Is Hamas thinking of participating or will it reconsider the possibility of participating in these elections?

[Al-Zahhar] This is the assessment of some people, but the movement's assessment is different. Success or failure in elections does not signify success or failure in a certain postelection program. Take Clinton, for example. He won the presidential elections, but now he and his program are failing. Eventually, he will lose. Elections are not our aim but rather postelections.

[Al-Sawir] Do you think that the PA has carried out any positive steps since assuming power in Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Zahhar] It is up to the masses' assessment. The PA has to be given some time. Let us wait and see what happens after one year, then we will make an assessment.

[Al-Sawir] You know that the PA has become a tangible reality. What are the movement's real demands for becoming an active and positive partner in this PA?

[Al-Zahhar] One cannot broach this subject through the newspapers.

[Al-Sawir] Is it true that if Hamas were to obtain the posts that it wants inside the PA's organs it would become part of the PA?

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[Al-Zahhar] We must differentiate between two levels: first, the administrative work which runs the services, and second, the political, which expresses the PA's commitments. We do not deny that Hamas is present everywhere—in education, health, agriculture, and the police, with different proportions. This movement is not an isolationist phenomenon. It is present now, and it was present even before the PA in administrative and servicing organs. No one has said that its presence means recognition of the Oslo agreements. Consequently, if the number of Hamas members in these organs increases or decreases, that will not change Hamas' stance toward the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

[Al-Sawir] Since Hamas is well aware of the calamities and dangers of civil wars and since from the first day of the PA's arrival in Gaza and Jericho Hamas has forbidden the shedding of a drop of Palestinian blood by Palestinian hands, why does the movement not initiate a serious reconciliation with the PA on the basis of objectivity and good intentions?

[Al-Zahhar] Before asking this of Hamas, which has always called for preventing the shedding of the Palestinian people's blood and has acted with that utmost concern for this end, we wish to see the other side's good intentions and rationality in dealing with the sons of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Al-Zahhar: Hamas Not To Cooperate With Commission

TA3011083494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has announced that it will not cooperate with the judicial inquiry commission appointed by Yasir 'Arafat to investigate the recent bloodshed in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip, announced that his movement will not cooperate with this commission until a public inquiry commission is established. Dr. al-Zahhar emphasized Hamas' demand that the makeup of the two commissions be coordinated with it.

Hamas Offers Conditional Dialogue With 'Arafat

JN3011112094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Nov 94 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Lamis K. Andoni]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hamas is ready to open a dialogue with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) if Yasir 'Arafat takes serious steps to uncover those responsible for opening fire at protesters in Gaza on Nov. 18.

"It (a dialogue) depends on 'Arafat, if he decides to cover up on those responsible for the massacre then a political dialogue will not be possible," said Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for Hamas.

He said the PNA should take confidence-building measures to prove its credibility for Hamas to engage in serious negotiations.

A major step towards confidence building will be the formation of a neutral public commission to investigate the death of at least 14 Palestinians when PNA police opened fire at protesters on Nov. 18.

Mr. 'Arafat has set up two committees to investigate the shootout on Friday Nov. 18, when Palestinian police opened fire at protesters near a downtown mosque in the Gaza Strip.

"The authority cannot possibly be the enemy and the judge," the Hamas official said.

Mr. Ghawshah, however, said that contacts between Hamas and the PNA to prevent mutual provocations and clashes will continue.

"Our priority is to prevent a civil war... thus we diferentiate between an in-depth political dialogue and contacts to prevent clashes," he told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Mr. Ghawshah's statements appeared more conciliatory than his previous call on Mr. 'Arafat to step down and leave the Palestinian people to decide their future.

In the interview, the Hamas official implied that he had not necessarily backed down on his call, but that if the situation warranted that the Islamic Resistance Movement deal with the PNA then certain conditions will have to be met.

" 'Arafat has to prove that he is ready to be objective about the investigation."

Some officials from Fatah, Mr. 'Arafat's power base, charged Hamas of killing at close range eight Fatah activists inside and outside the mosque.

Information available shows that two Fatah supporters were killed in front of the mosque.

Mr. Ghawshah said that Hamas wanted Mr. 'Arafat to reveal who gave the orders to the police to open fire at the protesters.

Hamas' demands seem to aim more at exposing and embarrassing Mr. 'Arafat since he is believed to control all decisions in the PNA.

Mr. 'Arafat had resorted to a show of force by Fatah to counter Hamas' political offensive against the authority.

The revival of Fatah's role in Gaza has apparently surprised Hamas, which was asserting itself as the group commanding the Palestinian street.

Hamas has tried to stay away from any direct attacks against Fatah per se and focused its criticism on the PNA and its security apparatus.

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According to various Palestinian sources Hamas officials believe that the internal Fatah opposition to Mr. 'Arafat's policies and the Israeli-Palestinian agreement will pressure the PNA leader not to use Fatah against the opposition.

Fatah Central Committee members Faruq Qadummi and 'Abbas Zaki had held the PNA partly responsible for the Nov. 18 clash.

Police Chief Said Responsible for Newspaper Ban

TA2911162094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Since yesterday morning indignation has prevailed in the Gaza Strip after readers realized that they would not be able to read the newspapers as usual because Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali, commander of the Gaza police, "issued" an order preventing the newspapers from reaching the Palestinian Authority [PA] area in the Gaza Strip. He did so under the pretext that last Saturday [26 November] evening he had asked the newspapers to report that the number of participants in the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] rally was 5,000, but they did not abide by this request.

When he made this decision yesterday, he said to the newspaper distributors: "Since your newspapers did not adhere to the figure that I fixed, this is your punishment."

The ban on the newspapers was lifted six hours later, after President Yasir 'Arafat's personal intervention. In a telephone call from Brussels, he ordered that the newspapers be handed over to the distributors immediately. He expressed his disappointment at the decision to delay the newspapers' distribution.

It is worth noting that among the newspapers covered by al- Jabali's order yesterday were the Israeli newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST and AL-AQSA, which is issued by the PA in Jericho.

Commenting on an AFP report, Brig. Gen. al-Jabali said yesterday evening: "What AFP reported is totally unfounded. The delay in the newspapers' arrival yesterday stemmed from bad weather conditions, which might happen again in the future."

AFP had cited Brig. Gen. al-Jabali as saying: "All these journalists are collaborators, and the bad weather conditions could last eight months."

Police Chief Denies Accusation

NC2911171594 Paris AFP in English 1549 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 29 (AFP)—Palestinian police on Tuesday [29 November] impounded copies of daily papers for the second day running on the Gaza Strip again without giving any official reason, distributors said.

Police seized three Arabic-language dailies, a weekly and the JERUSALEM POST on Monday after allegedly biased reports of an Islamic rally on the autonomous Gaza Strip.

The publications were later released and appeared on the market in the afternoon.

A distributor, who requested anonymity, told AFP police again took away copies of the papers after they arrived early Tuesday morning at the Erez crossing point from Israel.

"It's the same as yesterday," he said, adding that no reason had been given.

He said police had also taken the identity papers of distributors waiting outside a police station in Jabaliyah town for the papers to be released.

Gaza police chief Ghazi Jabali told AFP he knew nothing about the seizure.

But he was lampooned in a huge colour cartoon on the back page of the daily AL-QUDS showing him seated at his desk behind a name plate: "The Governor by virtue of God."

A sign hangs of the wall reading: "Newspapers can't be distributed in Gaza because they don't suit our mood."

Scissors and a rubber stamp, symbols of censorship, lie on a shelf alongside the "Guide to handcuffing."

The Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre, a Palestinian press organization, said the paper with its unprecedented caricature had decided on "direct confrontation."

Jabali, accused by the press of organizing the seizures, on Monday told AFP that the press had inflated attendance figures at a rally in Gaza City organised by the radical opposition group Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

'Adnan 'Abd-al-Latif, AL-QUDS general manager, said Jabali had told reporters to use a figure of 6,000 for Saturday's rally.

But the crowd was estimated at between 7,000 to 8,000 by at least one Palestinian official and 50,000 by Hamas.

"Today we printed stories about Jabali taking decisions on his own, and caricatures of him," 'Abd-al-Latif told AFP. "It looks like he was unhappy with that, he is against democracy.

"We have recieved no official reason," both times, he added.

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"Yesterday, Jabali confiscated the papers and Abu Ammar (PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat) intervened and gave orders for their release. Today it looks like it's a personal act (by Jabali)."

Reportage on Brussels Talks, 'Arafat-Peres Meetings

'Urayqat Comments on Aid, Meeting

NC2811074194 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 28 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PA minister of local government, in Jericho, by 'Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on 28 November; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, can you shed some light on the meeting the donor countries will hold later today?

['Urayqat] This is a very important meeting. It comes at a time when conditions in the PA [Palestinian Authority] areas are serious, fateful. This situation is a consequence of Israel's procrastination over implementing the agreement and the donor countries not providing the aid they promised. During today's meeting issues must be clarified. We remember the warnings that His Excellency President Husni Mubarak gave to the world two weeks ago before the recent tragic events in Gaza. He warned that unless the donor countries provide prompt aid, things will take a grim turn. This warning remains valid. Conditions are bleak. We have taken over a ruined infrastructure from the Israeli occupation in the fields of health, education, agriculture, tourism, and water services. Renovation projects are urgently needed. Unless the donor countries now come up with projects that can be started within days, I believe that conditions will become harder and a big question mark [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, President Yasir 'Arafat will meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the sidelines of the donor countries' economic meeting. What specific issues will they discuss?

['Urayqat] The meeting will be a session of negotiations. They will discuss the transitional period's four elements, namely, Palestinian elections, the redeployment of Israeli troops, the revision of laws, and the transfer of powers. I believe there will be only one meeting in Belgium. Further negotiations about the transitional period will then be transferred to Cairo, as before. We hope today's meeting will produce agreement on a method of negotiations in the coming stage that will deal with all the elements to be debated in a balanced way. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Peres-'Arafat Talks

JN2811180994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Nov 94

[Political commentary: "Brussels Talks and Putting the Cart Before the Horse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The donor countries' conference starts in Brussels today to decide on an emergency economic program on the implementation of the previous decisions and pledges to aid the Palestinian people. The Palestinian-Israeli talks will resume on the fringes of the conference, which is attended by the PLO and the Israeli Government. These talks have on the agenda several issues, the most important of which is the Palestinian elections and Israeli Army withdrawal from the West Bank villages and towns.

The donor countries' commitment to the proposed aid plan will provide much support for the peace process. Equally, an initiative by the Israeli Government to break the ice and end the deadlock facing the peace process with the Palestinian people will provide the decisive factor for emerging from the dilemma facing the current negotiations.

Now more than ever before, it has become clear that the policy of Israeli hesitation and waiting has led to the dilemma and the deadlock. This is the opinion of the majority of the Palestinian people, according to the latest poll conducted by the Palestinian Researches and Studies Center. The poll shows that 72.3 percent of the Palestinian people believe the Israeli Government is not serious about its endeavor to achieve peace with the Palestinian people. Thus, the Israeli Government must rectify its policy and provide clear and courageous answers to end the deadlock, before it is too late. In the peace process that has already started the Israeli Government faces two options: Either to take confident and courage steps forward, or to hesitate and wait until the available opportunity for peace fades away. This opportunity will not be available indefinitely, taking into account the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. To which option will the Rabin government incline during the Brussels talks?

Very regrettably, both the secret and public proposals and ideas of the Israeli Government are still unable to make progress toward the option of ending the deadlock. They are still tied to the same old perceptions, engulfed in their security complex. Take, for example, the Israeli plan proposing that the Israeli Army should withdraw from the Palestinian towns and villages for three days and then return to the old positions after holding the elections. There is also the plan proposed by Israeli Army generals to build circle roads that will extend for over 1,000 km that will need over $1 billion and three years to complete, and the plan to build isolated traffic crossroads, protected by buffer walls, in the Netzarim area of the Gaza Strip at a cost of scores of millions of dollars.

These plans and projects, proposed or being implemented unilaterally, are based on pure technical considerations. They, however, have no chance of resolving the big maze created by the occupation. They are tantamount to a person putting the cart before the horse. They prevent any progress. Such projects will only exacerbate

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the conflict, complicate Israeli security problems, and block all roads leading to the peace and the shores of safety.

These deceptive roads symbolize Israel's evasion of the peace process. Discussion of these projects will only be a waste of precious time.

The Palestinian peace challenge will continue to be put to the Israeli Government and the people of Israel. If the Israeli Government is interested in the making of genuine peace with the Palestinian people and in seeing the climate of coexistence and tranquility prevail, then it must work on removing the real obstacles preventing the peace. It must take courageous steps on settlement activities, especially the odd settlements, such as Netzarim and similar settlements in the West Bank. These settlements were described by demonstrators from the Israeli Peace Now Movement as a stumbling block on the path of the peace process. It may also need to immediately start linking the transitional phase of the political solution to the final phase.

Finance Minister on Donor Nations

JN2811184394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, PA finance minister, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] What are your expectations from tomorrow's donor nations conference in Brussels?

[Al-Nashashibi] In light of the facts laid out to the donor nations conference, I expect an endorsement of urgent aid to the PA [Palestinian Authority] so that it may fulfill all its social functions in the Gaza Strip.

[Mu'addi] There is a feeling that the donor nations may tomorrow decide on immediate aid to the PA provided the latter becomes more energetic in tax collection to help the Palestinian treasury. What are you doing on that front?

[Al-Nashashibi] Despite the dire straits in which the Gaza Strip is in, we are doing what we can. The PA's revenues are growing, but not enough. In the West Bank, however [pauses]...in particular, I would like to point out that of the money raised by the Israeli authorities on behalf of the PA—like the fuel tax, the revenue tax, and the stamped paper tax, and the income tax collected from Arab workers in Israel—we have not received enough to meet our commitments. Contrary to published reports, only 2.5 million shekels have been received since September. We have heard about 25 million shekels; the discrepancy seems to be the result of dropping the decimal point.

[Mu'addi] How much tax money has been raised in Jericho and Gaza to date?

[Al-Nashashibi] Around 45 million shekels; the figure represents tax and fees collected in the Gaza Strip.

[Mu'addi] The donor nations entertain doubts as to where the financial aid extended to the PA and intended for development projects goes. What can you do to allay these fears?

[Al-Nashashibi] How can they have their doubts when they have not made any transfers? How can they be worried when we have yet to receive any money for infrastructure projects? We are the ones who should be worried.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, director of economic policies in the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction [PECDAR] said today that coordination between Palestinian economic bodies leaves much to be desired. How do you react?

[Al-Nashashibi] Wrong. With all respect, brother Samir only knows about the PECDAR and the economic policy; beyond that, he has no other responsibilities.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Palestinian finance minister, thank you.

[Al-Nashashibi] Thank you.

Paper: Success Depends on Israel, Donors

TA2811195994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Nov 94 p 13

[Editorial: "So That the Brussels Meetings Will Succeed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting that will be held today in Brussels between President Yasir 'Arafat ad Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, as well as the scheduled meeting of the donor countries, definitely constitute steps in the right direction toward eliminating the obstacles that impede the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the arrival of aid promised by the donor countries to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. This aid is aimed at easing Palestinian suffering and launching reconstruction and renovation.

In order to create a new positive development that fundamentally promotes the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track, these meetings must produce specific and clear results that will help us to emerge from the current stalemate and lead to a practical and speedy translation, whether with regard to implementation of the agreement or the arrival of funds from the donor countries.

The meeting between President 'Arafat and Peres will basically involve the issue of Palestinian general elections, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, and their redeployment outside Palestinian towns in the West Bank within the framework of extending the PNA to the West Bank.

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It is common knowledge that reaching basic arrangements on the redeployment of Israeli forces in preparation for Palestinian elections continues to collide with Israel's objection to implementing what the Oslo and Cairo agreements stipulate, especially regarding the withdrawal of forces. Israel uses the security situation as a pretext and tries to put forward proposals and "solutions" that we cannot even call "compromise solutions," such as the proposal to withdraw Israeli forces from the centers of Palestinian towns for three days. These forces would then return to their former positions after the three days in which the elections are held.

The specific and required result of the Brussels meeting will be Israel's readiness to implement the agreements that it signed, whether in terms of the withdrawal of forces, elections, or other issues and reach agreement on the relative arrangements through the detailed talks that will be held later in Cairo between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

As for the donor countries' meeting that will be attended by President 'Arafat and Peres, what is required after all the procrastination and delay is for the donor countries themselves to realize that any other delay might expose the peace process to danger. They should also realize that the money that they promised to pay can no longer be considered just a grant or a gift to the Palestinian people as much as it is an international responsibility—within the framework of an international agreement—and an international contribution to finding a peaceful solution after the international community, particularly the major powers, ignored the Palestinian tragedy for scores of years. Consequently, these countries are called upon to give their required contribution, which constituted an element of the peace process, without any additional delay.

In sum, the success of the Brussels meetings to advance the peace process depends on Israel, which still holds the key to the required advancement. Israel must remove the obstacles represented by its positions, which impede the implementation of the agreements. Moreover, the donor countries are responsible for the delay in launching Palestinian reconstruction under the difficult conditions imposed on the Palestinian people. Here, one must also point to the responsibility of the cosponsors of the peace process for the flaw that has occurred, whether in the positions of Israel or those of the donor countries.

'Arafat Adviser Assesses Meetings

JN2811204494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, has said his excellency the president held two meetings with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Brussels today.

His excellency discussed with Peres the legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza, the safe passages between Gaza and Jericho, and the obstacles preventing the arrival of funds and aid from the donor countries to the National Authority.

Details in the following [telephone] interview which we conducted and broadcast with the adviser to his Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat a few minutes ago.

[Begin recording] [VOP correspondent Yusuf Qazzaz] We have with us Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat. Brother Nabil, good evening.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Good evening Yusuf.

[Qazzaz] Good evening. The weather there [in Brussels] may be cold, but the political temperature is definitely high?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The temperature is always high.

[Qazzaz] Nabil, please we are on the air now, can you describe the atmosphere and what happened in Brussels today?

[Abu-Rudaynah] You know that President Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] arrived with his delegation in Brussels this morning. Soon after his arrival, he had a private, one-hour meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres. Members of the two delegations then joined the meeting. They discussed all issues outstanding between the Palestinian National Authority and the Israeli Government, including the elections, the passageways between Gaza and Jericho, the closure of Gaza, the workers, and students permits.

President Abu-'Ammar then had a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. The meeting was attended by members of the Palestinian delegation. The meeting discussed the latest developments in the peace process and the obstacles preventing the arrival of funds from the donor countries to the Palestinian National Authority. The meeting lasted for about one hour and agreement was reached on several points.

This was followed by a meeting with a delegation from the European Troika at the headquarters of the European Union Council in preparation for the important meeting which will take place tomorrow morning to discuss financial aid from the donor states. During that meeting, President Abu-'Ammar spoke at length and explained developments in the areas of the Palestinian National Authority, starting with the economic difficulties and ending with the closure of the Gaza Strip and the problems created by the repressive economic crisis. Peres also spoke at the meeting and reviewed certain other issues. Envoys of the European troika then spoke...

[Qazzaz, interrupting] Greece, France, and Germany?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes. The three members spoke one after the other. They touched on the same subjects raised by President Abu-'Ammar. As you know, brother Yusuf, there will be a meeting of the donor countries tomorrow

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which will be attended by all the states that participated in the initial Washington conference.

A few minutes ago, there was another meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres to complete discussion of the issues raised in the morning. The meeting was attended by members of the two delegations who discussed other problems which were not discussed in the morning. This meeting lasted for more than one hour and all the issues that remained outstanding since this morning were raised at this meeting.

[Qazzaz] Then, Nabil, there were two meetings today?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. There was also a meeting with the British foreign secretary and a meeting with the European Troika. The president will tonight meet with members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps. He will also meet with the Palestinian community in Brussels. Later tonight, he will meet with the World Bank's deputy director (Koch Weiser) and his delegation in preparation for tomorrow's meeting which will be held at the European Union headquarters. [end recording]

Brussels Activities Detailed

JN2911084094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority and head of the PLO, held several meetings in Brussels last night. The first meeting was with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in which they discussed all issues related to the peace process and the obstacles impeding it. His excellency then conferred with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and discussed with him ways of expediting the flow of assistance from donor nations.

His excellency also met with a Troika delegation, made up of Germany, France, and Spain. During the meeting, he highlighted the situation in the National Authority areas and the economic crisis resulting from the failure to implement what was agreed on with the Israeli side and failure of donor nations to fulfill their pledges.

His excellency and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a joint news conference last night in which the issue of elections was discussed. They also stressed the need to increase the number of Palestinian workers who are allowed access into Israel, and the need to lift the cordon clamped on the Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank.

His excellency also met with a World Bank delegation headed by the Bank's Vice Chairman (Kurt Weiser). The meeting dealt with ways in which donor nations can help push the peace process forward.

Meetings of the donor nations will open today in Brussels in order to allocate and extend assistance to the Palestinians. During the news conference, President 'Arafat asked donor nations to extend aid to build the homeland, alleviate the economic crisis, and create job opportunities for the sons of the Palestinian people, noting that unemployment among Palestinians stands at 58 percent.

Sha'th Comments on Brussels Meetings

JN2911134594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1043 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, in Brussels, by Sa'id Mu'addi, in the studio on 29 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th in Brussels, what topics were discussed during the meeting between Peres and 'Arafat yesterday and what was decided at the end of this meeting?

[Sha'th] We discussed various topics. Of course, the first topic concerned the continuing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the transitional stage, the redeployment of Israeli forces, the transfer of authorities, and the elections. The objective was to agree on forming the negotiating committees and to expedite the negotiating process to achieve the objectives of the peace process.

The second topic dealt with completing the discussion on implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreements contained in the Gaza-Jericho accord and the agreements which followed. It also dealt with ending the Israeli closure measures, which greatly harmed the economy of the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The third topic concerned the cooperation of donor countries so that we can obtain as much support as possible from them. I believe that the results were positive.

We agreed to begin more extensive negotiations in Cairo next Monday. We will start with two committees. One committee will deal with the concept of a transitional stage, redeployment, and the transfer of authorities. The other committee will complete the discussion on elections as well as pending issues in the Gaza-Jericho agreement, including the safe passage, prisoners, and other issues, which will also be negotiated in Cairo by the concept [al-mafhum] committee.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, what is Minister Peres' stand on the elections and what is the Palestinian concept of Israel's security needs?

[Sha'th] I believe that all this has been postponed until next Monday [5 December]. We have formulated the broad lines and in accordance with these broad lines the two committees will be formed. After this, in-depth negotiations will be held within these two committees.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, what do you expect from the donor countries meeting today?

[Sha'th] As you know, there were many promises. Only a few have so far materialized. That's why you will find the

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Palestinian delegation from its head President 'Arafat to all its members more reserved in their optimism until we see the results with our own eyes and not only figures on paper, but funds that are transferred to improve our people's conditions.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, naturally you have held consultations and contacts on the sidelines of the donor countries' meeting. What is the position of these countries representatives?

[Sha'th] I came here one week ago to prepare for this meeting with Brussels, London, and Stockholm, and by contacting the various governments. Yesterday, there were meetings with the European foreign ministers, the EEC, the U.S. delegation, and a meeting between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations, as well as meetings with all the other parties. The stand they adopt is that this time they will try to be more practical and more positive. They realize that any delay will lead to a crisis and calamities that can no longer be avoided. There are new players like Sweden which expresses more interest with the change in its government and the return of the socialist government which had always contributed to the enhancement of peace in our region. We expect more support from it.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you.

Iranians Cable 'Arafat Condemning Embassy Attack

JN2711105194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has received a cable of condolences from the nationalist Islamic leaders in Iran on the martyrdom of a number of Palestinians who defended the Palestinian Embassy in Tehran against the plots of the ruling cliques in Iran.

The senders categorically condemned the crime of the jurisconsul [velayat-e faqih] henchmen, who attacked the Palestinian Embassy, which they had the honor of inaugurating at the beginning of the Iranian Revolution. They appealed to President 'Arafat not to consider the acts of the ruling gang in Tehran as representing those of the Iranian people, who loved and will keep loving Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the heroic Palestinian people.

The cable was signed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Morteza Tabataba'i, the imam of Qom; Dr. 'Ali Nuri Zadeh from the Iranian National Writers and Intellectuals Society; and engineer Hushin Kurdistani from the Patriotic Front.

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Algeria

FLN Secretary General Comments on Rome Meeting

LD2911143894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following his participation in the Rome gathering on the Algerian crisis, Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front [FLN], held a news conference today in which he explained the FLN's policy on how to get the country out of the crisis in which it is floundering. He also talked about his participation in the Rome gathering.

Abdelkadir Djeridi, who attended the news conference, has just entered the studio:

[Djeridi] Thank you, Ahmed. Before answering journalists' questions, Mr. Mehri gave a briefing on the Rome gathering, which was organized by the Catholic Sant' Edigio Community, on the Algerian crisis.

Mehri said that the meeting which was held in Rome on Algeria provoked numerous and various reactions from the authorities, in which they declared that the gathering was a conspiracy aimed at internationalizing the Algerian crisis. They described the participants as agents and accused them of treason.

The FLN secretary general said in relation to these accusations that he has a strong sense of his national responsibility, that the party and its members has the right to express their views on everything connected with their country inside and outside it, and that they are not subject to any mandate when they exercise their partisan policy.

Abdlhamid Mehri pointed out that the aim of the Rome meeting to which he was invited was not to hold a national dialogue, because the dialogue should take place in Algeria and among the Algerians themselves. According to Mehri, the aim of this meeting was to organize a free and real debate based on the presentation of the political points of view of each participants. According to the FLN secretary general, the subject of the gathering was clearly defined and known to him and to the Algerian authorities.

In his briefing, Abdelhamid Mehri stressed that in his party's view the need has become urgent to start explaining what is taking place in Algeria to international public opinion, particularly in fraternal and friendly countries, so that the attention of these countries does not become a source of misunderstanding or lead to lack of communication, which would surely not translate the Algerian people's interest in friendly and cooperation relations with everyone.

Discussing the way the Algerian media handled the Rome gathering, Mehri said that they launched a fierce campaign against the participants. He stressed here to the press that the way out of the crisis is a serious dialogue in Algeria, among all the Algerians, without exclusion.

In this news conference, which is still in progress, Abdelhamid Mehri said that it is not possible to link the Algerian crisis with the process of combating international terrorism, because that would necessarily lead to the embroilment of countries, organizations, and bodies in the heart of the Algerian crisis, which would then be reduced to a merely terrorist phenomenon. The matter does not fall into this category, he stated. Mehri added that those who attempt to internationalize the Algerian crisis are the advocates of eradication and confrontation among the Algerians, who have aborted all attempts for a serious dialogue among the Algerians.

Abdelhamid Mehri then expressed his readiness to participate in other gatherings that might be organized on Algeria in the future in order to explain his points of view.

We shall return to the news conference, and to other points, including the FLN position toward the presidential elections that Head of State Liamine Zeroual has announced, the FLN view of the national dialogue, and other matters.

Ait Ahmed: Country Rejects 'Both Extremes'

BR3011111494 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 27 Nov 94 p 4

[Interview with Socialist Forces Front leader Hocine Ait Ahmed by Placid Garcia-Planas in Badalona 26 November: "We Are Certain That Algeria Would Vote Against Fundamentalism—first three paragraphs are LA VANGUARDIA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Badalona—Hocine Ait Ahmed, 68, leader of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front, is one of the Algerian opposition's most charismatic politicians and an unchallenged leader in the Berber region of Cabilia, which has its own language and culture, different from those of Arab nations.

Ait Ahmed—whose slogan still is "neither a police state nor an Islamic republic"—left Algeria in July 1992, after the assassination of President Budiaf, and he has just taken part in a meeting held in Rome with representatives of all Algerian political tendencies, with the exception of the government, which rejected and criticized this dialogue.

Yesterday he was in Badalona to attend a seminar on "Northern Africa at The Turn of The Century" organized by the Olof Palme International Foundation, an institution which has consistently drawn important personalities.

[Garcia-Planas] The Algerian Government has refused to take part in the debate in Rome. Is it furthering its own interests in this way or upholding its own ideal prospects for Algeria?

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[Ahmed] It is rejecting dialogue because it does not want things to change. Its only proposal is to hold a presidential election, that is, to continue with the same authoritarian system. When the government announced that dialogue had broken down, we told ourselves "There never has been any such dialogue."

[Garcia-Planas] Is Cabilia the Algerian equivalent of Catalonia?

[Ahmed] Cabilia resembles Catalonia in many respects. I have always found the Spanish transition model very inspiring. In this connection, I have always regarded Catalonia as a reference point. The two regions are also alike as regards the parties' cultural strategy. We have a lot of grassroots cohesion. In Cabilia, the sense of being very united has discouraged us from resorting to violence and prevented a political vacuum from developing. In regions where there is no political life, young people as a whole, who are excluded and suffering the effects of unemployment and all the social problems, have only been able to express themselves in the mosques. Instead of recognizing that society wants democracy, the government is trying to reduce the struggle to one between Cabilia and the fundamentalists, and this would be extremely dangerous for the Algerian nation and for stability in Northern Africa as a whole, because there are Berbers everywhere. Algeria is lucky not to have any "ethnicist" tendencies. We are a nationwide party. The Algerian nation is a single and indivisible nation, but a genuine positive regionalism must be established.

[Garcia-Planas] What is the relationship between the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and Cabilia?

[Ahmed] The only grassroots forces that have opposed the FIS are the democratic forces. We do not want problems to emerge between Cabilia and the fundamentalists, in the first place and above all because many FIS leaders are people from Cabilia who migrated to Algiers. Playing the ethnic trump is a dangerous game.

[Garcia-Planas] Is the conflict in Algeria a civil war, or rather, a war between two armed minorities?

[Ahmed] The armed groups have hijacked the civilian population. If an election were held today, we are certain that Algeria would vote against the fundamentalists. It is not a civil war, despite the fact that the government tried to turn it into one.

[Garcia-Planas] What if elections are held and the fundamentalists win again?

[Ahmed] We must obtain guarantees. Everybody must recognize civil rights, taking turns in power, and constitutional principles. No parliament should be able to change these without a two-third majority. Once this is achieved, we will have fire-breaks against totalitarianism.

[Garcia-Planas] What is your opinion of the fact that young girls are forbidden to wear a veil at school?

[Ahmed] I believe it is a mistake. French people have the right to make decisions in accordance with their traditions and interests. But there is a danger of an almost terrorist-like laical vision, of secularism pushed to the extreme. This has led French people to have a black-and-white view of things. They see nothing in Algeria but the power which they have been supporting for the past three decades, on the one hand, and the Islamic peril on the other. They do not know that the vast majority of the population rejects both extremes.

Security Services Eliminate Former Guemar Mayor

LD2911153294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services announced today that the security services have succeeded in eliminating the terrorist Lezkar Omar, former mayor of Guemar municipality, Oued Province.

The security services pointed out that Lezkar Omar, the principal perpetrator of the Guemar attack in Chetaba forest in Constantine in the company of 19 terrorists, has been eliminated.

The identity of two other [terrorists] has been identified. The matter concerns Salhi Hani, struggler in the disbanded Islamic Salvation Front, and former worker at the diggers and tractors factory in Constantine.

French Company To Continue Insuring Loans

LD2911204494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] COFACE, the French foreign trade insurance company, has given a clarification. It will continue guaranteeing loans to Algeria. In a communique it issued recently, the company recalled that it will continue to guarantee the loans recently granted by the French Government, which are worth 6 billion francs. COFACE has stressed that concerning business operations that require the presence of staff in high risk zones, the applications for guarantees will be examined case by case and in the light of their importance.

Egypt

Mubarak Pleads PA Cause in French Interview

NC2911195794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed optimism at the outcome of the meeting in Brussels of the donor states assisting the Palestinian self-rule Authority [PA].

He stressed the need for the donor states to honor their commitments so that the Palestinian people can realize their aspirations for peace.

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This came in an interview Mubarak gave today to the chief editors of 12 French newspapers, covering all parts of France.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the president spoke of the consequences of delays in supporting the Palestinian Authority, stressing that the impact will affect all regional states.

Al-Sharif said that the president talked about the distinctiveness of the Egyptian-French relationship and its development since 1975, when he was vice president.

The president referred to the close ties of military cooperation that linked the two states when he commanded the Air Force. He also referred to the ties that link him personally with all French leaders and leaders of parties of various orientations and the mutual respect between him and these leaders.

Answering a question about his recent visit to a number of European states, Mubarak said that the visit was agreed upon nine months ago. He explained the outcome of his trip to Britain, Italy, and Romania and the talks he held with the leaders of those countries on regional issues.

Asked about assistance to the PA and the efforts he has made to rally world support in this direction, President Mubarak underlined the need for donor states to honor their commitments so that the Palestinian people can realize their aspiration for peace.

The information minister said that President Mubarak reiterated that peace is not just papers to be signed, but that it needs serious action to be consolidated. As far as the people are concerned, peace is not just papers to be signed and ceremonies to be held; it is hope for a better life, more job opportunities, and more services, the president said.

The president pointed out that when the people lose faith in peace or feel that it is at the expense of their interests, they reject and demolish that peace. He affirmed that regional peace is part of global peace within the new world order. The world has intermingled interests. Therefore, peace is very important, but it has its price and deserves sacrifice by responsible states for the sake of their interests as well as world security and stability, he said.

The information minister said that the president expressed optimism over the meeting starting in Brussels to assist the PA and the contacts he has made in that connection with his brothers in the Arab world.

Asked whether Israel could light the fuse of a civil war in Gaza, President Mubarak stressed that this would be a disaster. The threat will go beyond the borders of the Gaza Strip, he said, expressing his belief that Israel is well aware of this and that it will be the first to be affected if this happens.

Asked about the risk the Afghanistan returnees represent for Arab and European states, the president said that Egypt cannot be compared with any regional state. We have stability and independent institutions as old as history. We set up the first government on the banks of the Nile, he said; adding: The Egyptian people understand the situation and reject violence. We have individual cases but they are less frequent that and even incomparable to those in other world states. The president referred to the democracy and real freedom which Egypt uniquely enjoys in the region.

Asked about the role expected of Europe in consolidating the regional peace march, the president explained that role in detail, pointing out that regional peace means stability and that this stability means stability in Europe. European states will be the first to be affected by any collapse in the Middle East.

Asked about the European role in solving the Balkan issue, President Mubarak explained the seriousness of European divisions over solving these basically European issues. He said that Europe has the necessary capabilities and mechanisms to find solutions for these problems within Europe itself.

Al-Sharif said that the president later answered a question about some foreign states that allow and encourage the fundamentalist approach. He explained the difference between true piety and extremism and violence, which society rejects.

Asked about the present controversy in France about the Islamic headscarf, President Mubarak said that every one, Muslim and Christian, exercises his religious rituals and insists on the values of his religion. This is different from extremism, violence, terrorism, and forcing custodianship on the people.

The president was asked about the roots of the violence exercised by political Islam in Egypt. He reviewed the history of violence by political groups in the 1940's, 1950's, and early 1980's. He reiterated that Egypt is dealing with the situation in accordance with the law, which bans the setting up of religious parties.

President Mubarak was asked about claims by those who call themselves Islamic groups to the effect that they have given assistance to citizens during the earthquake and torrential rain disasters. He said that their claims are untrue. It is mere propaganda for which they exaggerate, he remarked.

He added that facts show that the Egyptian state has provided tens of thousands of homes for earthquake victims. These facts show that the state will build over 10,000 housing units for the victims of the rains within six months. The facts shown on television screens say that the state alone and nobody else provides care, accommodation, relief aid, and tents to these people, he said.

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Touching on the issue of human rights, the president explained that the Egyptian citizen has a right to lead a dignified life, in which his freedom, money, honor, land, and property are protected and his right to education and to a secure life governed by respect for the law is preserved.

Human rights were not developed to protect murderers or criminals or to support armed groups in society, he said; adding: We have a fair judiciary; any violation is referred to it and nobody interferes in its affairs.

Touching on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and his view of the demand to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia, President Mubarak noted that the Serbs produce weapons and have a military industry, while Bosnia has none. Therefore, the embargo in effect deprives Bosnia-Herzegovina alone of obtaining weapons. He remarked that the real crisis emerged as a result of the negligence of the international community. Why was the international reaction quicker, firmer, and clearer during the Kuwaiti crisis, even though both issues pose a threat to world peace, he asked.

President Mubarak remarked that both maintaining the embargo and lifting it involve risks. However, he said, lifting the embargo might increase the Bosnians' capability to defend their land and hence prompt the Serbs to reconsider their position and take a peaceful course.

One of the French journalists who held the interview stated that the meeting with President Mubarak was very cordial and that it touched on several current issues. He praised the president's candidness and his clear and objective answers, promising to convey President Mubarak's views to the French public.

Musa Views Palestinian Situation, Foreign Ties

NC3011111294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that avoiding an explosion in the situation in the Palestinian arena requires, first, the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles to the letter and the donor nations' expeditious fulfillment of their pledges.

Commenting on reports on Egyptian-Libyan relations, Musa said these ties are within the context of international and regional legitimacy on the grounds that Libya is an Arab country and Egypt's neighbor. He added that there are mutual interests and that this requires a bilateral relationship on a specific standing.

He noted that Egypt is an Arab country cooperating with all the Arab countries, especially neighboring states, and that it is in Egypt's interest for its relations with these states, whether Libya, Sudan, or any fraternal country, to be at their best. He added that this does not prevent Egypt from honoring Security Council resolutions and urging a speedy trial of the two suspects so that the truth will out.

He said Egyptian-U.S. relations are very good and that there is continuous consultation between the two countries.

Likely Successors to Islamic Group Leadership Seen

NC2911105994 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 Nov 94 p 6

[Unattributed article: "With the Deterioration in his Health, Who Will Succeed 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Abbud al-Zumar, Karam Zuhdi, Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, and 'Abd-al-Akhir Hammad are the four candidates to succeed Shaykh 'Umar al-Rahman as the amir of the "Islamic Group." What is happening? Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman became seriously ill last January when his blood sugar level rose. Three months later he needed a heart operation to repair a blocked artery but he refused to undergo the operation despite difficulties in breathing and chest pains. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is accused in the bombing of the World Trade Center, was moved to the prison hospital in New York last May following a bout of vomiting accompanied by dehydration and high fever. His health deteriorated several days ago and speculation about the Group's future and the leadership increased. [passage omitted]

The question now is: Who will succeed 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman? It could be 'Abbud al-Zumar, the imprisoned intelligence lieutenant colonel who resumed his membership in the Group's "Shura Council" on 1 December 1992 after leaving the "Islamic Jihad Organization" to its leadership abroad represented by Ayman al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian doctor residing in Switzerland. Al-Zumar's leadership as amir is perhaps debatable on the grounds that the leadership is not usually given to a prisoner. But this is possible, since the leadership was once given to a blind man.

Another candidate is Karam Zuhdi, who was once nominated by the Group to be the "president of the Islamic state" had the coup timed with the October 1981 assassination [of President Anwar al-Sadat] succeeded. There is a strong possibility that Zuhdi will be the Group's amir since the Group is saying that his intellectual, jurisprudential, and organizational abilities qualify him for this nomination, especially as he is leading the Group in the presence of 'Umar al-Rahman, even though Karam (the in-law of 'Abd-al-Rahman) is in prison.

As for Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, alias Abu-Talal al-Qasimi, he was released from prison several years ago after completing the sentence imposed on him in the case of the assassination of President al-Sadat. He proved his media presence after becoming the Group's spokesman following the death of former spokesman Dr. 'Ala' Muhyi-al-Din (Cairo 1990). The Higher Military Court in Alexandria has passed the death sentence on Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim in absentia in the case of the "Returnees

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from Afghanistan." But will a different decision be issued by the so-called Islamic Group Shura Council? This is possible.

'Abd-al-Akhir Hammad is a senior Group jurisprudential and organizational leader. The first defendant in the attempt to assassinate Najib Mahfuz described him "as the most educated and greatest intellectual in the Group." Hammad is abroad and has strong ties with 'Abbud al-Zumar, 'Isam Dirbalah, Najih Ibrahim, and 'Asim 'Abd-al-Majid (imprisoned leaders). But his youth could be an obstacle.

The post of amir is not as attractive as in the past in view of the circumstances surrounding the Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman phenomenon and the security fist that is daily tightening around the Group's organization and propagation. The coming years might see this organization disappear from the field. But the opposite is quite possible too.

Suez Canal Head Views Decline in Revenues, Plans

NC2911050994 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 25 Nov 94 pp 18-21

[Interview with engineer Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, by Dr. Salwa Abu-Sa'dah, Safa' Lewis, and Muhammad Kishk in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-MUSAWWAR] The Egyptian people are extremely concerned about the Suez Canal. For the first time in 10 years, the canal's revenues have dropped by $70 million in 10 months, which is about 4 percent of the total revenues. A similar drop in revenues occurred in the years 1984 and 1985, but what is behind the drop now? All the proposed projects are still under study at research centers and no regional projects have yet materialized. So why now?

['Adil] It is true that there is an approximately $70 million drop in the canal's revenues. It is a fact which we do not hide, and all our records show it. It is not in my or anybody's interest to hide these facts. The Cabinet's Information Center has all the information in this regard and knows of any fluctuation in revenues right on time.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] So the decline in revenues is true and the Egyptian people's concern is justified?

['Adil] Yes it is true and there are reasons for it which we have investigated. We know all the reasons for the decline in the past 10 months, from January to October 1994. There are several reasons for it. The drop in the shipments of oil through the canal alone are behind 80 percent of the $70 million decline in the canal revenues. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] While appreciating all the factors that have had a considerable impact on the canal, we believe that 125 years after its inauguration the canal is in danger. The Israeli plans mostly concentrate on finding overland and maritime routes as alternatives to the Canal; and the Gulf seems to care about its own interests, even if they were to come under Israel's umbrella. What is your views of the regional plans, some of which were raised during the recent meeting at Casablanca?

['Adil] The Canal flourishes during peace, not war. I hope that the projects that will be established in the region during peacetime will be rewarding to all parties and that no party will serve its own interests at the expense of others.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] This is a hope, a wish that shows that we are the party mostly concerned about what is going to happen. Are we going to stay like this for long?

['Adil] The only solution is to establish Arab economic integration.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] This is an impossible wish. Let us talk about reality. What have you heard regarding the new projects in the region that could affect the Canal?

['Adil] Any new outlet to the Mediterranean will greatly harm the Canal.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] You are generalizing; let us be more specific.

['Adil] There are proposed projects which we must not approve of.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do you know what these projects are?

['Adil] Yes. The foreign minister sent them over to me a few days before the [Casablanca] conference.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Since you have them, why not talk about them, particularly since reports say there are several projects, including an Israeli canal from Aqaba to the Mediterranean; and the Israeli reports say that it will be an alternative to the Canal.

['Adil] I am just drawing your attention here. I warn that any projects or outlets for the Gulf or Middle East trade on the Mediterranean will have a negative effect on the Canal and Egypt. I do not want to talk about each project. All I can say is that Israel wants to serve as an outlet for the Middle East trade on the Mediterranean, similar to Rotterdam in Europe.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] We want details!

['Adil] They are proposing that Arab oil be transported through pipelines via Gaza, gas to be transported through pipelines to Israel, and cargo to be transported on the old al-Hijaz railway, and all these projects will affect the Canal revenues.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] And the solution?

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['Adil] We are doing all we can. I have granted ships carrying gas from the Arabian Gulf a 35 percent discount, for which I received a thank you letter from Abu Dhabi, which said that the discount will boost gas shipments to Europe. However...

[AL-MUSAWWAR, interrupting] We will continue so as not to cause you any embarrassment. The Qatari gas pipeline to Israel and then over to the Mediterranean is still under study.

['Adil] There must be a common Arab strategy serving the interests of the Arab peoples and charting the future for the entire region.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What projects are slated for construction that could affect the Canal?

['Adil] The pipelines will affect the Canal and Sumed [Suez-Mediterranean oil pipeline] as well. The gas pipelines and the railways will also affect the Canal. These projects are not secret; they are all mentioned in full in Shim'on Peres' book.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] So?

['Adil] All I can do is appeal to the Arab states for cooperation and integration. For your information, all the old transport lines for which plans to rehabilitate are being made will harm the Canal.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] The volume of trade in the region is known. What will be the use of the proposed projects?

['Adil] The volume of Qatar's gas, for instance, is such that it could utilize more than one project, because it is the largest natural gas field in the world.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the truth about the Canal's cooperation with Israel? Is it true that a delegation of seven Israeli experts is here to conduct a joint study with the Canal Authority?

['Adil] This is the first time I have heard about this. I have not met with any Israeli delegation or a joint Israeli-Moroccan delegation. The last Israeli delegation that came to the Canal was a year ago to discuss the discounts we are offering ships carrying coal, which Israel imports from South Africa, so that ships do not have to go around the Cape of Good Hope.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Are the plan to deepen the canal by three feet and similar plans steps toward modernization?

['Adil] Yes, and we promise you more to attract supertankers.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do you expect the Canal revenues to return to normal in the future?

['Adil] God willing.

Accusations of Brotherhood 'Terrorism' Rebutted

NC2811130994 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Nov 94 p 12

[Article by counselor Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi: "To Tharwat Abazah: 'Your Words Are Terrorism'"—a boxed editorial note says that AL-AHRAM did not publish this article at the time the writer sent it to the paper]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] I read Tharwat Abazah's article entitled "The Muslim Brothers Are Terrorism" in the 7 November edition of AL-AHRAM. I know that Abazah hates and loathes us deeply but that is his affair. I never thought—since he is past his youth, excesses, and impetuosity—that this hatred would push him to disclaim the truth, stray from fairness and justice, even fabricate baseless events, and pack his article with abuse and obscenities that are inconsistent with his position as a writer and someone who holds a senior post. He accused all the Muslim Brothers without exception (whom he said exist as strongly and as clearly as can be, have official organizations in every governorate, have a clear, real presence in urban centers and villages, and appear as clearly as can be in Egyptian life, that is, if they do not comprise millions of this nation, then they at least comprise hundreds of thousands) of being killers and butchers. He also accused them of lunacy and madness and of being more deceitful and harmful than the terrorists who shed blood and so on. Is such talk reasonable or correct in an article?

The writer claims in his article that the attackers of Najib Mahfuz said during the investigation that the Muslim Brotherhood is helping them with huge sums of money as well with advice that they do nothing but follow.

I say these words are untrue because the reports published in the newspapers about the defendants' statements included nothing of what Abazah wrote. Even if these words were uttered, then reason is bound to reject them. Can it be that he forgets that the security bodies investigate every minor detail in terrorism cases to ascertain whether that detail is valid?

So what about us when we, as he said, are on the stage and are known to the security bodies? Which one of us has been asked a single question about these claims? How come we have not been arrested and thrown into prison? Terrorist incidents have been going on for 20 years and have intensified to a harmful degree. The Muslim Brotherhood has clearly and categorically condemned them. The state used all its intelligence and investigating resources to check every possibility in every case and every crime but has found out that the Muslim Brothers have no link with them at all. [passage omitted]

You say that after 50 years of bitter persecution, the Muslim Brotherhood exists, is spreading, and is working with no fear of anyone but God. Why are you inciting the government against these multitudes that permeate the people and its conscience in depth? By what right do you want to undermine and gag them and deprive them of the God-given right to "enjoin what is right and to forbid what is wrong and invite all to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching?" [Koranic verse] Is this the democracy you believe in? Would it not have been worthier of you to demand respect for the creed and belief of millions of the sons of this people, who cannot be enslaved or removed from their jobs in their homeland? Is it reasonable or legal to say or claim—in a

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country where Article Two of the Constitution says that Islam is the state's official religion and that the principles of Islamic shari'ah are the source of legislation—that those advocating the state's official religion and the application of shari'ah's tenets are violating the Constitution or the law?

Article Five of the Constitution, which was issued in 1971, was preceded by the Muslim Brotherhood 30 years earlier with a draft Islamic constitution that was approved by the constituent assembly on 16 September 1952. Article 77 of this draft said that (people are born free and equal in dignity, rights, and freedoms without discrimination on the bases of origin, languages, parents, or color and must deal with each other in the spirit of brotherhood).

The Muslim Brothers read and understand God's book, abide by its verses, and understand the meaning of God Almighty's saying (God forbids you not, with regard to those who fight not for (your) faith nor drive you out of your homes, from dealing kindly and justly with them; for God loveth those who are just). From its inception, the Muslim Brotherhood has lauded and taught this verse and explained its tenets and the need to comply with it to all who join it. Thus, not one skirmish has taken place between any Muslim Brother and Copt for over 66 years. We also know the religious principle (they have what we have and they have the same obligations as us). We understand God Almighty's saying (let there be no compulsion in religion) and also (And dispute ye not with the People of the Book, except with means better (than mere disputation]. Wahib Dus, Louis Akhnukh, and other Egyptian Copts were advisers to martyr Imam Hasan al-Banna and his political committee members. The overseer of the Brotherhood guide's farm for over 30 years is Christian Labib Nasrallah.

No one except you has said that Islam is a sectarian religion and you have beaten everyone to it. I am not accusing you, but drawing your attention to it. Go back to your God, repent before your creator, and watch what you write because God is watching you. Know that none of the current over 60-year-old members of the Brotherhood, and there are no more than 20 of them, has ever been accused of a crime against a person or possessions and none has helped—with a single word—to kill a human being. They are peaceful and uphold God's word with wisdom and beautiful preaching.

We remind you again of God Almighty's saying (Let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is next to piety: and fear God. For God is well- acquainted with all that ye do).

Official Accuses West of Sheltering 'Terrorists'

MM3011114494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Naming United States, Britain, Denmark, and Switzerland, First Egyptian Accusation Against Western States of Sheltering 'Terrorists'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Cairo has launched a severe attack on Western states for "supporting terrorist elements" belonging to "outlawed criminal groups associating themselves with the Islamic religion." And for "sheltering" these elements "and supporting elements violating the law and legitimacy in their countries, granting them political asylum—a right to which these elements are not entitled."

This came in a statement to AL-HAYAH by a high-ranking official, in which he warned that "some states will themselves one day experience terrorist actions from the elements they are sheltering."

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, revealed that Cairo has made contacts with some of these states, but "they have not responded or paid any attention to Egypt's request for the extradition of these elements." He expressed his country's indignation. He said: "Europe will be affected in the near future, and its security will be threatened."

He expressed his country's astonishment at "Western states sheltering numerous [terrorist] elements while continuing to condemn terrorist actions in the media." He described this as a "contradiction."

He went on: "Some states from time to time issue warnings to their nationals not to travel to certain areas." He said: "If these states care about innocent civilians, they must extradite the elements they are sheltering." He described these warnings as a "certification of innocence" designed for their citizens.

The Egyptian official warned that these states "will pay a heavy price if they continue this policy."

It was understood from the Egyptian official's statement that he meant certain states, including the United States, which refused to extradite Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of the "Islamic Jihad"; Denmark, which granted Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim political asylum despite the death sentence passed against him in the case of "those returning from Afghanistan" in 1992—he is working in Copenhagen as a spokesman for the "Islamic Group"; Britain, where Lawyer 'Adil 'Abd-al-Majid, member of the Jihad organization, lives—he left Cairo for the United States early in 1991 with a group of lawyers to defend Sayyid Nusayr in the case concerning the assassination of the Israeli Rabbi Meir Kahana, and then moved to Britain, where he was granted political asylum; Switzerland, which granted Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the Jihad, political asylum; and Turkey, where Usamah Rushdi, former spokesman for the Islamic Group who is married to the daughter of Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front leader Abassi Madani, lives.

AL-HAYAH has learned that the terrorist elements' extradition and serious cooperation in combating terrorism were two main topics on President Husni Mubarak's agenda in Britain and Italy recently, and also on the agenda of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who visited Britain last month.

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Meanwhile the same source confirmed that Cairo's contacts have not been interrupted. He pointed out that Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni will arrive in Cairo within days to hold talks on bilateral cooperation in fighting terrorism and armed groups. And that he will sign with his Egyptian opposite number, Major General Hasan al-Alfi, an agreement on security cooperation, which will include extraditing criminals. He said: "It will be the first agreement between Egypt and a European state in this sphere."

This visit, which should have taken place three weeks ago but was postponed until after Mubarak's visit to Italy, comes at a time when Cairo is seeking to sign security agreements with other European states such as Britain, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, and Sweden.

Envoy in Iraq Says Figures on Deaths Inaccurate

NC2911155594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 29 Nov (MENA)—Ambassador Rida Nasr, chief of the Egyptian interests mission in Iraq, has remarked that the figures cited by some Egyptian newspapers on the numbers and names of Egyptian workers who died in Iraq are inaccurate.

He told a MENA correspondent in Baghdad that he recently sent the Foreign Ministry a list of the names of Egyptian nationals who died in Iraq this year, along with medical reports explaining the cause of death for those whose bodies were sent back home and those who were buried in Iraq. The ambassador did not mention the number of deaths, saying only that their ratio does not exceed one in 1,000.

The ambassador added that some deaths occurred as a result of natural causes, some as a result of road accidents, some died in robberies, and some were killed in personal fights with other Egyptians or with Iraqi nationals.

Ambassador Rida Nasr reiterated that the Egyptian interests mission is taking care of Egyptian expatriates in Iraq and is trying to solve their problems and eliminate the obstacles they encounter by reaching an agreement with the Iraqi immigration officials to receive the mission's representative twice weekly in the department to complete the necessary papers and adjust the expatriates' status.

He pointed out that the Egyptian nationals who are imprisoned in Iraq—he did not mention the number—are doing time for crimes and violations they committed. He said that he himself, as well as representatives of the mission, visit these prisoners twice monthly and give them financial and in-kind assistance, which is donated by mission members and well-to-do Egyptians in Iraq. This does not include visits on special religious holidays. [passage omitted]

Writer: 'Weakened' Clinton Behind 'Bias' to Israel

NC2911134094 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 23 Nov 94 p 2

[Article by Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad: "The Clinton Administration's Recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's Capital... and the Gaza Incidents!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Wednesday AL-AHRAM noted, rather diffidently, that Israeli sources asserted that the United States had recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, chosen a position south of Jerusalem, and signed a contract to erect a building there to replace the Israeli [as published] Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Clinton's administration has tried to soften the impact of the recognition by alleging that there are no urgent plans to construct a building at the new site and that the whole measure goes back to a U.S. Congress decision in 1988 providing for a choice between two sites for the U.S. Embassy, either Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. The claim adds that restricting the choice to Jerusalem alone resulted from a lack of agreement with the Israeli Government over the Tel Aviv site.

The U.S. Administration added that the embassy will not be transferred to Jerusalem before 1999 and that the transfer is linked with an agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority over the fate of east Jerusalem.

Notably, Washington has not denied the report. Indeed it confirmed it by referring to the 1988 Congress decision to transfer the embassy site. The decision, dating back to the Bush era, remained suspended because the former Republican administration did not feel it was bound to implement it.

The question that must be asked now is this: Why did Clinton's Administration only remember this decision now? Why didn't it cite it on coming to power two years ago, especially as the decision was made when Clinton's Democratic Party controlled the U.S. Congress, not the Republican Party, which has now become the majority party in both the Senate and House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years?

The answer, it seems, is closely linked with the Democratic Party's crushing defeat in the recent election to the Senate and House of Representatives, something that undermines Clinton's reelection chances two years from now.

To strengthen his domestic standing, it seems that Clinton urgently needs to offer a generous gift to the U.S. Jewish lobby to beg for its members' votes at the next presidential election. Hence he made his recent decision about Jerusalem!

Clinton and, in a more explicit way, Vice President Al Gore, promised the Jewish lobby during the presidential election campaign two years ago to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. But the Clinton administration's commitment to the peace process and its need to appear

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as a full peace partner and intermediary prevented it from adopting a blatantly biased position toward Israel at the expense of the Arabs and all the world's Muslims and Christians.

Clinton's weakened position as President is now compelling him to reveal facts that he has tried to keep secret over the past two years. This is a dangerous affair that will not be limited to adopting a position identical to Israel's on Jerusalem.

We must now expect the U.S. Administration's bias toward Israel to grow in connection with all the issues over which the negotiating parties cannot reach agreement, not merely on the Palestinian track, but perhaps also with regard to the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, which have reached a critical stage.

Washington has undertaken to steer the Middle East negotiations singlehandedly but its propensity for blind bias to Israel will necessarily deprive it of the ability to do so. France and Europe in general are now trying to enter the fray. Even Russia is restoring its distinctive role: It has helped to persuade Iraq to recognize Kuwait and its Prime Minister Chernomyrdin visited Saudi Arabia and several other Gulf states this week.

The specter of civil war that has hovered over Gaza since last Friday's bloody clashes between Gazan crowds and the Palestinian forces is the inevitable consequence of the growing U.S. bias toward Israel, something that poses the threat of a total, possibly irredeemable, setback for the peace operation.

The United States cannot claim the position of sole superpower in the world while its executive leadership is suffering a great weakness domestically and consequently subjugates its decisions to unstable domestic considerations instead of international security and stability.

Writer Assails U.S.-Israeli Policy, Arab Rulers

NC2911162094

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 25 November publishes on page 5 a 4,000-word article by 'Adil Husayn responding to an article published in the 19 November edition of Cairo AL-AHRAM.

Husayn begins the article by saying: "We have always said that what the Americans and Zionists took through their agents and through deception is much greater than what they took with their own hands and by force.

Noting that the late President al-Sadat declared that billions of dollars would be forthcoming, whereas people realized afterward that all they got was "humiliating" heavy debts, the writer says "they deceived us" again after signing the Palestinian and Jordanian deals with Israel. The campaign of lies, he adds, was not limited to promises of prosperity. They also pledged that the "Zionists" will agree to withdraw from the occupied territories as soon as their Arab neighbors show their good intentions and agree to negotiations. He goes on to say that subsequent events affirmed that the contents of the fragile Gaza-Jericho Accord were mere talk. He says that the "ferocity of the intense pressure by the American-Zionist alliance is now focused on every Arab country in order to impose a complete surrender, and it is only natural for Egypt to be chief among those targeted by the pressure."

After noting that state media analyses and articles portray the "crisis in Egyptian-U.S. relations" as "transient," he argues that this is not the case. Rather, "it is the inevitable and ultimate result of the course of relations between the two countries, which our rulers have accepted and implemented." He says that the "current and future deterioration" in Egyptian-U.S. relations is not linked to an incidental event, such as the Republican Party's victory, because U.S. policy on Egypt and the region, "as everywhere," is subject to a permanent strategic line, although "Clinton is more radical in the context of that line."

He says: "Our talk about the hazards of a coup and aggression against the fraternal governments in Sudan and Libya is linked with our party's [the ruling National Democratic Party] continuous talk about the importance of integration and unity with these two countries as a first step toward broader Arab integration to face the current U.S.-Zionist arrangements."

He adds that the rulers are willing to be submissive to elude pressure and threats and that they might turn a blind eye to possible "aggression" against Libya in return for the continuation of U.S. aid for one year, "for example." Then, he notes, these rulers will consider themselves "shrewd winners of a great victory."

Addressing the Americans, he says: "If our rulers are afraid and vulnerable to blackmail and, if some of them are corrupt and can sell out anything, this people and its Arab nation have come to the conclusion that there will be no more retreating and humiliation from today on. Woe to you if you and your Zionist allies are not deterred. God is great, God is great."

Private Sector To Set Up Venture With Morocco

NC2911142094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian and Moroccan businessmen have agreed to set up a joint venture with $10 million in capital to implement the equally divided $70 million transaction signed between the two countries.

This was announced today by Jamal Abu-'Umayrah, chairman of the Egyptian-Moroccan chamber of economy. He pointed out that this is the first time the private sector in both countries has been entrusted with such a task, which was traditionally done by the public sector.

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Abu-'Umayrah said that the agreement was reached at a recent meeting in Rabat of the chamber's board of directors, which also agreed to establish a joint Egyptian-Moroccan company that will set up a clothing factory in Egypt and a tourist village in Morocco as a first step toward enhancing joint investments in the future.

Abu-'Umayrah noted that the meeting studied the trade exchange between the two countries and examined lists of products. A committee chaired by Dr. Fathi Muhammad 'Ali, chairman of the National Democratic Party's industrial activity committee, has been formed to review these lists.

The chairman of the chamber of economy affirmed that the chamber will work at setting up a shipping line and company between Egypt and Morocco to eliminate some obstacles hindering trade. He added that a delegation of Egyptian investors will visit Morocco in mid-December to agree on joint projects.

Sudan

More Peace Council Members Appointed

EA2811141794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has issued a constitutional decree adding more members to the Higher Council for Peace [HCP] in accordance with the provisions of Article Three of the Third Constitutional Decree. The decree provides for adding the gentlemen whose names follow as members of the HCP. They are: 'Abd-al-Hakam Tayfur, Simon Mori Didimo, (Paul Anade Osar), John Kulang, Jonathan Hamad Kuku, (Hasan Kundah), Retired Major General Yusuf 'Ali Sharif.

Vice President Promotes Ties With Ethiopia

EA2911191294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The first vice president of the Republic, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, has directed the relevant authorities to overcome obstacles hindering the implementation of agreements ratified between Sudan and Ethiopia. His excellency confirmed that Sudan was eager to promote the excellent relations between the two countries.

This came during a meeting in his office today with His Excellency 'Uthman al-Sayyid, Sudan's ambassador to Ethiopia.

His excellency the ambassador said that he had briefed Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr on preparations currently under way to convene a meeting of the joint ministerial committee in early January in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. He added that delegations from both sides on a political and service [as heard] level would participate in the meeting.

Foreign Minister Denies Eritrean Accusations

EA2911164294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has stressed that the Sudanese Government is eager to strengthen and confirm its belief in the policy of good neighborliness based on mutual respect between states, on noninterference in each others internal affairs, and the recognition of sovereignty of other states and international borders.

He expressed his regret at the Eritrean Foreign Ministry's accusations carried in a note it distributed to embassies in Asmara on 6 November. He announced the Sudanese Government's rejection of what the Eritrean Ministry described in the note as the Islamic front government in Sudan.

He categorically denied the Eritrean Government's propaganda, namely that Sudan is training a group of Eritreans inside the country's territory. He again denied allegations that Sudan was endeavoring to overthrow the independent government of Eritrea.

The foreign minister affirmed Sudan's commitment to the agreements signed between the two governments in Asmara in August on the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the boosting of interaction through the joint security committee. His excellency called for the strengthening of cooperation in all fields particularly in the field of security.

Dr. Abu-Salih expressed his faith in Sudanese-Eritrean cooperation through official channels in order to safeguard Eritrea's security and stability from all threats.

Tunisia

Highlights of Draft 1995 Budget Reported

LD2911183694 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Report on speech by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui to the Chamber of Deputies on the state budget on 29 November]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The general debate of the Chamber of Deputies on the economic budget and the general state budget of next year started this morning. At the beginning of its session, the Chamber listened to the government's statement. The details are as follows:

After being entrusted by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Mr. Hamed Karoui, the prime minister, presented this morning before the Chamber of Deputies the government's statement on the draft economic budget and the general state budget for 1995. [passage omitted]

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With regard to the economic program of the government for next year, the prime minister explained:

[Begin Karoui recording] The government's economic program for 1995, which is proposed to you, includes within the document of the economic budget the continuation of reforms that were adopted in the [8th] plan to work to increase its productivity so as to win the challenges of feasibility and efficiency. [passage omitted] [end recording]

After that, the prime minister reviewed the most important economic results registered in 1994 and pointed out that it was expected that the gross domestic product would have an estimated growth of 4.4 percent in fixed values, despite the reduction in agricultural production because of climatic factors.

He said it was expected that the creation of new jobs would reach 60,000 in nonagricultural sectors. This represents a creation of 116,000 new jobs in the first three years of the plan. This is an important gain if compared with the average rate of job creation which did not exceed 40,000 during the 7th plan.

He pointed out that control over inflation was continuing and was kept within reasonable limits as it was expected that the increase in the price index would be of less than 5 percent by the end of 1994. This consolidates the gains registered in this field.

The prime minister highlighted the improvement registered in the state of foreign payments and the development of investments in the industrial sector during 1994. He pointed out that it was expected that the export of goods and services would register a high growth estimated at 11 percent in fixed values in 1994, and that imports would witness a moderate increase of more than 8 percent in fixed values, despite the pressures caused by the increase in the need to import some products, such as cereals and hydrocarbons.

He let it be known that thanks to this development in exchanges, the current deficit in the balance of payments was confined to about 839 million dinars compared to 860 million dinars in 1993. In the same context, he highlighted the improvement in the debt indices as the volume of foreign debt will stabilize by the end of 1994 at about 53.9 percent of the gross domestic product and the rate of debt servicing at about 18.5 percent of the current revenues.

With regard to investments, Mr. Hamed Karoui pointed out the important development witnessed by this sector in 1994. It has reached a rate of increase estimated at 10.3 percent in fixed values as its volume is to reach 26.3 percent of the gross domestic product compared to 25 percent in 1993.

He highlighted the efforts being made for ensuring a sound balance in public finances based on mobilizing our own resources as much as possible and limiting borrowing to within reasonable limits. This enabled more control over the budget deficit, which will be confined to about 1.9 percent of the gross domestic product by the end of 1994. [passage omitted]

He said the pattern of development relied particularly on a speedy growth, a new policy of private investment, creating further job opportunities, controlling inflation and the readjustment of foreign payments and ensuring the safety of financial balances.

The prime minister noted that internal financial balances would contribute to achieving their goals by providing suitable financial resources for economic operators, taking into account the need to ease the pressure on foreign payments, contribute to further control of inflation and keep the percentage of price increases within reasonable limits which would not exceed 4.5 percent in 1995. This would bolster the achievements made in this regard, allow progress towards the same rates of price increases in countries we deal with and consequently strengthen the competition ability of Tunisian products.

Mr. Hamed Karoui said that next year's budget would have a total increase of 11.9 percent, the state's intervention would amount to 6,595 million dinars. When talking about expenditure, the prime minister noted that the government, when allocating expenditure, sought to support the social sector and accord further attention to local development plans, infrastructure, and public facilities. He said that as a result of this trend, 60 percent of the budget would go for social service ministries. The budget is also marked by the payment of the third installment of salary increases, the pursuit of subsidizing basic goods and the consolidation of credits to the National Solidarity Fund in addition to increasing grants to low-income families and improving council housing.

He said priority would be given to sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, which had been allocated about 284 million dinars. That would make it possible to continue the strategies concerning water supplies, developing forests and pastures, and protecting soil and land [word indistinct], in addition to continuing integrated development projects in the north-western regions and Kairouan and starting the agricultural development project in the province of Siliana.

Regarding the bases of the economic and financial policy, Hamed Karoui said: [Begin Karoui recording] Action in the sphere of the economic and financial policy will be based on liberalizing retail prices and imports, and removing the remaining restrictions. The liberalization of 15 percent of the retail prices will be witnessed in 1995. This will bring the percentage of items of domestic consumption freed from price restrictions to 85 percent. Imports of 8.3 percent will become exempt, bringing the total of production items, which are not subject to [import] permits, to 91.5 percent.

The implementation of the laws and regulations which are a part of the process will be closely observed to provide all the prerequisites for competition as a way of

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securing the rights of all those concerned and safeguarding the fiber of the national economy from unlawful practices.

Significant progress in monetary and financial reforms will be witnessed in 1995 as gains achieved by financial institutions in the previous period are consolidated. The modernization and consolidation of the banking system's financial and technical resources will continue with substantial amendments being introduced to the financial market's legal and organizational framework; also, efforts will be made to revitalize the exchange market to make it an effective instrument for bolstering the strength of companies through the rationalization of currency exchange, as well as through laying the groundwork for financial institutions to penetrate foreign markets. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Interior Ministry Statement on GCC Security Accord

LD2911220694 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the Interior Ministry tonight said that the State of Kuwait, in affirmation of the bonds of true fraternity and firm links with its brothers in the member states of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council], and with which it always wishes to maintain unity of rank, is of the opinion that the security agreement that has been submitted to the member states of the GCC contains strong bases for building security cooperation among them on account that it is a collective responsibility that falls on all of them.

The statement, which was issued by the Interior Ministry on occasion of the signing of the security agreement by the member states of the GCC, added that the agreement contains the provisions that realize this cooperation and the integration of the security organs among the member states. The statement said that the government of the State of Kuwait approves this agreement in principle and the main elements on which the agreement is based, but there remain some sideline issues on which a discussion will be conducted in a fraternal spirit and mutual confidence.

The Interior Ministry's statement expressed hope that points of view on this will meet soon in a manner that is in agreement with international treaties and conventions, and which takes into account the general situation in each state. The statement added that this discussion of views is a matter that is pursued in all the affairs of the member states of the GCC, including the security field which is based on firm foundation and strong ties, and in a manner that realizes the interest of all.

Saudi Arabia

Bosnian Foreign Minister Meets With Counterpart

LD3011105094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0045 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 29 Nov—His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who conducted talks today with the Bosnian foreign minister, said that the arms embargo imposed by the United Nations had weakened the Bosnians and strengthened the positions of the Serbs.

According to REUTERS, in a meeting with a group of foreign journalists, his royal highness said: "The tragedy is continuing, and we are sad and frustrated because of the international stance toward the aggression in Bosnia."

He added: "A settlement cannot be achieved through negotiations unless we have a more balanced situation in the battlefield."

With regard to the ban on arms, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: "We do not believe that it is fair." He said: "Saudi Arabia is one of a number of countries who are ready to arm the Bosnians if the ban was lifted because it is an international issue."

He said that Saudi Arabia was getting increasingly concerned because of the suffering of the population of Bihac "as another ethnic cleansing would be a terrifying matter, and force should be confronted with force."

In the meeting with journalists, which included various issues, the foreign minister said that a group of journalists had been invited to visit Saudi Arabia "because it is important that we know each other as we really are and not as we are presented by others." The invitation was extended in the wake of Western media reports containing criticism of Saudi economic policies and human rights.

About the financial problems that Saudi Arabia faced, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: "We cannot hide the fact that we are facing economic difficulties, but the government is in control of the situation."

He said that in spite of the reduction in income because of the reduction of oil prices and in spite of the huge expenditure on the Kuwait liberation war "the Saudi economy is basically a healthy economy and if we have economic problems I do not think that they cannot be solved."

His royal highness said that strict measures had been adopted to restore the economy to its course. He said that the Saudi Armed Forces would not be affected by the reduction in the budget as the security requirements of the country should be satisfied.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the security threat came from the Arabian Gulf itself adding that there were real threats about which we had no illusions and we had to confront. He said that the stability of Yemen was important for the region.

In reply to a question about Iraq, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that we hoped that Iraq would now implement all the UN resolutions.

About the Iranian media campaigns, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that Saudi Arabia would judge that country on the basis of what the government did and not what was said.

He said that it was important to pump money into the veins of the peaceful settlement. He said that Saudi Arabia had committed itself to giving financial aid for the development of the Palestinian economy, a matter that was announced at the appropriate time.

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Bosnia Resolutions, 'World Anarchy' Viewed

MM2911165694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Nov 94 p9

[Article by Mahmud 'Atallah: "Anarchy Threatens the World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Failure to implement the UN Security Council's resolutions on protection of the people of Bosnia against Serb aggression carries the threat of world anarchy that would not be confined to Bosnia.

After the Bihac tragedy, the situation in Bosnia can no longer afford the UN or NATO maneuverings and political leniency in the face of Serb aggression.

Although some views support the UN position of non-intervention on one side against the other in this war, that does not justify negligence to the point of permitting the Serb forces to enter the center of Bihac which is supposed to be a safe area secured by the UN forces.

There is a clear Security Council resolution providing for the use of force to defend that enclave and its Muslim and non-Muslim inhabitants, but the force that has been used in the form of air raids on a Serb airfield was too limited to deter the Serb aggressors. In fact, it gave them a justification to continue their aggression on the pretext that the NATO air raids created a state of war between them and the UN forces.

Furthermore, the way the air raids were carried out was unprecedented. Before every raid there was an official announcement that preparations were under way for such a raid, thus allowing the Serbs to get ready and to move their surface-to-air missiles either to positions from which to threaten the attacking aircraft or to safe hiding places.

What is even stranger is the European attitude which is providing daily evidence that there is no real desire to stop the Serb aggression and protect the Bosnian Muslims from death and destruction.

That European attitude was evident in Europe's rejection of the military plan submitted by the United States to NATO for intervention to defend Bihac and in its rejection of the U.S. plan for lifting the embargo on the supply of arms to Bosnia, and then its charge that the Bosnians were responsible for the Serb aggression because they launched attacks outside Bihac thus forcing the Serbs to storm Bihac.

The picture becomes complete with the recent proposal now under study by NATO, calling for military intervention with a force consisting of 250,000 troops to keep the peace in Bosnia if the UN decides to withdraw its forces.

It is clear from these Serb aggressions which have extended to the safe areas that are supposed to be protected by the UN forces, that the UN Security Council resolutions on the protection of Bosnian Muslims are just words uttered without any real implementation. There lies the real danger, which is that this failure to implement UN resolutions could lead to world anarchy that would not be confined to Bosnia.

Third Installment of Funds Transferred to PLO

LD2911133994 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Jamus, director general of the Saudi offices of the People's Committee for Helping the Palestinian Mujahidin, has announced that on the orders of His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh and chairman of the People's Committee for Helping the Palestinian Mujahidin, the sum of 3,980,600 Saudi riyals has been transferred today, Monday 28 November, from the income of the People's Committee for Helping the Palestinian Mujahidin to the PLO.

In a statement SPA, 'Abd-al-Rahman Jamus said that that sum represents the third installment of the people's committee's transfers to the PLO during the current year. The income of the people's committee is transferred every year in six installments. [passage omitted]

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Official Assails UN Statements on Missing Kuwaitis

JN2511202494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iraqi official today ridiculed the allegations being reiterated by the so-called special rapporteur, [Max] van der Stoel, against Iraq. The Iraqi official described those allegations as lies, lacking in credibility, biased, and nonobjective.

Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Duri, head of the Legal and Human Rights Departments at the Foreign Ministry, told the third commission of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly that van der Stoel is nothing more than a political tool working for suspect and inhuman purposes whose objective is to tarnish Iraq. He held van der Stoel responsible for acting beyond his jurisdiction and lying to the international community when he said that the human rights commission has authorized him to investigate the fate of missing Kuwaitis.

Al-Duri said that none of the human rights commission's documents refers to such an authorization because the issue is confined to the jurisdiction of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He said the question of jurisdiction has been addressed by UN Security Council Resolution No. 686, since the issue of the missing persons is one of the repercussions of an armed conflict.

The head of the Legal Department noted that Iraq has exerted and continues to exert sincere and serious efforts to resolve this issue. He censured van der Stoel for resorting to any means to circumvent facts and ignore the difficult human circumstances caused by the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and its people.

Embargo's Effect on Transport, Communications Reported

JN2411182094 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 12 Nov 94 p 2

[Article by Aghadir Mahdi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Transport and Communications Minister Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad has affirmed that the unjust economic embargo imposed by the United States and its allies has had a big effect on the transport and communication sectors which are vital to the citizen's life.

In a statement to AL-QADISIYAH, the minister said: Installations in these two sectors were destroyed in the first moments of the aggression. Telephone switchboards suffered the most, causing a drop of 4-6.5 percent in telephone services. We had plans to add 2 million subscribers to the telephone service in 1995 and to increase subscriptions by 14 percent, or even more, by the year 2000, so each family would have a telephone. But the embargo has prevented us from fulfilling those plans and enabling the citizens to enjoy this vital service. This is just one example.

Referring to the embargo's effect on the transport sector, especially commuter transport inside Baghdad, the minister said: Before the aggression we had 1,200 buses, which we planned to increase to 4,000 to cover Baghdad's need. Presently, however, we only have 1,500 buses. This has greatly undermined the service rendered to daily commuters and also indirectly affected production and work performance.

The minister continued: The same can also be said about the railroad system, where many locomotives, cars, and other carriages have been effected due to lack of raw materials and spare part, while the numbers of commuters and the quantities of freight have continued to increase. The embargo has prevented the implementation of contracts and plans to import spare parts. We also had plans, designs, and studies to build the new Baghdad Metro, which would link all parts of city, including the possibility of building similar underground systems in Mosul, al-Basrah, and al-Bayji. Instead, we are now discussing the building of railroads in the governorates which are not connected to the railroad system and the improvement of existing railroads.

The minister added: Our plans had also included building a strong maritime fleet and several new wharfs in order to enhance port capacities in receiving and shipping goods. The embargo has delayed all these development plans which would have strengthened the country's economy. The same also goes for our national airline, which we wanted to offer services such as transporting patients, old people, and delegations as well as medicines, medical requirements, humanitarian goods, and foodstuffs. However, this could not be achieved due to the embargo. Besides, all our airliners are still outside Iraq.

Jordanian Business Delegation Concludes Visit

JN2911134694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Hamdi al-Tabba', head of the Jordanian Businessmen Association, and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad today following a three-day visit to Iraq. The visit was in response to an invitation by the Iraqi Chambers of Commerce Union.

Al-Tabba' told INA that the delegation held talks with officials at the Ministries of Trade, Industry, Minerals, and Health; the Iraqi Industries Union; and the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce. The talks centered on enhancing economic cooperation and trade in the interest of both countries.

SAIRI on Importance of Accord With Kurds

NC2311160194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has said that the important

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agreements signed with Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani will greatly serve the Iraqi opposition.

In a statement to today's issue of the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH, al-Hakim says he expects the ruling regime in Baghdad to collapse as a result of cooperation between the Army and the masses. The SAIRI chairman reiterated his rejection of the partitioning of Iraq, stressing the importance of safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity.

Opposition Figures Discuss Plans To Topple Regime

NC2911170494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talbani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, attended the meeting of the Presidium of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] in Salah al-Din yesterday. Mas'ud Barzani [leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan]; Presidium member Staff Field Marshal Hasan al-Naqib; Presidium member Shaykh Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum; and Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, chairman of the UINC Executive Council attended the meeting. Members of the UINC Executive Council also attended the meeting.

The conferees discussed the current situation in Iraq and the region. They also evaluated the UINC's recent activity and discussed specific plans to overthrow the dictatorial ruling regime in Baghdad and establish an alternative democratic regime in Iraq.

Clandestine Radio on Pilots, Officers' Arrest

NC2911154594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam Husayn's regime has continued its arrest campaign against military men in several Iraqi towns. Informed sources say the recent arrests took place in Baghdad and Mosul and concerned a number of pilots and high-ranking officers.

Opposition Radio: Saddam Building Museum in Tikrit

NC2911155494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam Husayn's regime is building a museum near the town of Tikrit as part of its efforts to make Tikrit an alternative capital to Baghdad. Sources close to the regime say Saddam recently instructed a military construction establishment to build this museum so he can remove the remaining priceless antiquities from the Iraqi museum in Baghdad to the new museum.

It should be recalled that several antiquity collections have found their way outside Iraq and been sold for the benefit of Saddam's family and his cronies.

Paper: U.S. 'Stands Alone' in Position on Sanctions

JN2811090194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that the continuation of joint and honest efforts to implement Article 22 of Resolution 687 will force the U.S. Administration to reconsider its intransigent position that is isolated from the will of the international community.

In an article published today entitled "The U.S. Intransigence...to Where?" the newspaper says: After Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and implementation of Security Council resolutions, which, in the first place, are U.S. resolutions in their drafting and objectives, the U.S. Administration stands fully exposed without any cover or pretext to justify its intransigent position at the Security Council on lifting the unjust and inhuman siege which has been imposed on the Iraqi people for five years.

The newspaper adds: The U.S. annoyance with the Iraqi construction, the lies told about human rights in Iraq, and [U.S. UN Envoy Madeleine] Albright boasting that she will continue to be a snake that spits its venom at anything that is Iraqi, all these unbalanced and unobjective practices and actions show that the United States is isolated within the international community in general, and the Security Council in particular.

AL-THAWRAH says: It is no secret that the U.S. Administration had been wagering and behaving on the assumption that its barbaric aggression against Iraq and its unjust siege imposed on its people would realize its aspired objectives of destroying Iraq, dividing it, and changing its national system within less than six months, and it has been imposing this assumption on its allies and agents.

It says: Iraq's steadfastness, firmness, and adherence to its leadership and principles over four years has ended the U.S. dream and proved the futility and fragility of the U.S. wagering on the destruction of Iraq and changing of its system. Hence, a change in the international position toward Iraq and the U.S. isolation began, without any importance being attached to the British reverberating, subordinate position.

It says: It has become clear that the U.S. Administration stands alone against showing justice toward Iraq and lifting the siege in accordance with Article 22 of Resolution 687. It is also clear that this U.S. position is based on tendentious and known political motives that have nothing to do with the Security Council resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The U.S. Administration now has two options—either to accept and deal with the international consensus on showing justice to Iraq and lifting the siege imposed on its patient and mujahid people, or to entrench its isolation and distance

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itself from its closest allies and friends, with all that isolation means in terms of economic losses and wasting the opportunity to deal politically and commercially with Iraq.

Arab Rulers Warned Against Pursuing U.S. Policy

JN2811121694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0816 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—AL-QADISYAH has warned Arab rulers revolving in the U.S. orbit against pressing ahead with their approach, which is hostile to the aspirations of the Arab people, adding that this approach will trigger public unrest in their countries.

In an article entitled "Arab Rulers and Wisdom Calculations," by journalist Humayyid Sa'id, the paper says talk about the possibility of explosion in Arab countries, especially in those countries whose rulers can no longer soft-pedal their people's sense of injustice, suppression, and degradation of national unity, is no longer mere anticipation. On the contrary, it says, this has become a tangible reality, the beginnings of which have started to show all over the Arab world.

The paper touches on the factors that stir the feelings of the citizens and intellectual and political elite in the Arab world due to the Arab rulers' implementation of U.S. policies and guidelines aimed at securing U.S. economic and political interests in the region.

The paper adds that the Palestine question has remained for about a century a factor that stirs people, noting that the Palestinian factor sparked revolutions, coups, and public commotion, like the free officers organization in Egypt during the first Arab-Zionist war. It notes that the Palestine question ranked high on the priorities of the 23 July Revolution [in Egypt]. It says the Palestinian factor has never been absent from any Arab country and that Arab politics remained for half a century under the influence of the Palestine question.

The paper says: We do not do an injustice to any Arab ruler when we say that many of these rulers had militarily, financially, or politically contributed to Arab efforts on the Palestinian front for domestic calculations and not out of conviction or belief. They have done so also for fear that their lack of participation would cause them troubles and put them in danger.

It refers to the recent changes in the Arab world and notes that many unjust policies and stands were adopted due to the Zionist-propelled U.S. brute force. Consequently, it adds, these changes have led some Arab rulers, whether convinced or coerced, to act in a manner that poses a danger to their political future and to their countries' national and social security. It notes that the Zionist-motivated U.S. policy cares about nothing in the Arab region except for securing the Zionist interests and entity.

It says the U.S. Administration is laying many mines ahead of these rulers and will leave them to their destiny when such destiny comes. It adds that the history of the United States' relations with those rulers who secure its interests is quite known. The United States, it explains, looks for alternative rulers and establishes communications with them according to the calculations of the projected changes. It justifies this by saying that a superpower should not be absent from any future changes, it adds.

The paper stresses that the phenomena of extremism, violence, and anger witnessed in more than one Arab country are not due to a self-defect or unilateral action as depicted by the shortsighted. They, however, are the result of a multi-faceted defect represented, first and foremost, by the antagonism of the West in general, and the United States in particular, to Arabs and Muslims as a result of racism, Zionism, and the remaining traces of Crusader hatred.

It adds that the Arab rulers are aware of the Arab citizen's stand toward the Mother of Battles, its slogans, and leader President Saddam Husayn, who was prominent in all Arab countries and Islamic communities, not only in those countries whose governments sympathized with Iraq or adopted a neutral stand, but also in those countries whose governments took part in the military buildup. They continued to condemn the blockade as is clear in the daily political, cultural, intellectual, and social activities.

The paper notes that the United States has imposed biased unilateral agreements on a number of Arab states and the Zionist entity, abolished the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity at a time when it imposes embargoes on Iraq and Libya, and combats any Arab move aimed at surmounting the causes of paralysis, disintegration, and differences. This imbalance will certainly lead to tension and explosion.

Concluding, it calls on Arab leaders to realize this reality, pursue wisdom, and adjust their policies in a manner that spares their countries such an explosion.

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Jordanian Tourist, Student Groups Arrive

JN2811212594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 28 Nov 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Two groups of Jordanians crossed into Israel today on the first visit since the signing of the peace treaty.

A group of 10 tourists, mostly businessmen, crossed the southern Wadi al-'Arabah border post into Israel's Red Sea resort city of Elat, where they will stay for two days. The visit came a day after Jordan and Israel announced the establishment of diplomatic ties.

Jordanian tour operators have complained that Israel is slow in issuing visas for Jordanians. The visit received great welcome from Israelis. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, another group of Jordanians arrived in Israel from the Jordan Valley crossing point. Fourteen elementary school students were met at the bridge by a group of Jewish and Arab children from Haifa, who sang peace songs. Later, the students arrived in the northern port city of Haifa to attend a culture festival, the theme of which is the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty.

Rabin on IDF Withdrawal, Settlement Security

TA2911165794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from population centers in Judaea and Samaria during Palestinian elections is an issue for negotiation. He told reporters in Hebron that the city posed a unique problem which would require a special solution. Rabin said he wanted to create greater separation between Israel and the Palestinians but would not uproot settlements at this point. In Hebron with the prime minister was our reporter Dick Winter:

[Begin recording] [Winter] Accompanied by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, the head of Central Command Ilan Biran, as well as his military attache, Dani Yatom, this was Prime Minister Rabin's first visit to Hebron and to the Cave of the Patriarchs since the massacre there last February. When he arrived at the cave, one angry settler shouter at him: Rabin, you have no right to abandon the Cave of the Patriarchs.

Amidst extremely heavy security, the prime minister's next stop was the site of Sunday's [27 November] terrorist murder of Rabbi 'Ami 'Olami near the settlement of Bet Hagay, several miles south of Hebron. He walked around the site of the attack, spoke to IDF officers and to settlers from Bet Hagay. Then he was on to Hebron divisional army headquarters and a meeting with the leaders of the Jewish community in Hebron and Qiryat Arba'. The prime minister reportedly told the settlers that it was too early to speak about IDF redeployment in the territories, and especially in Hebron.

But, at the press conference after the meeting Rabin was less clear.

[Rabin] I said and I say that the solution to the Hebron area is going to be the most complicated one, or one of the most complicated ones, and I will not go into detail what will be proposed to solve this problem.

[Winter] One possible solution, said the prime minister, are solid blocs or clusters of settlements, as in the Qatif Bloc and the 'Etzyon Bloc.

[Rabin] We have good experience in a limited time; therefore, I can say so far the Qatif Bloc is a good example of a bloc of several settlements—I believe 12 or 13—which create a cluster of settlements close. And, they can live there with greater security, because it is defended as a bloc, a cluster of settlements.

[Winter] Prime Minister Rabin also said that he doesn't consider the agreement signed with the Palestinians as a peace treaty, but rather as an agreement towards peace. But, he added that it was one which Israel will keep. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 29 November adds that the prime minister discussed the new procedures at the Cave of the Patriarchs with settlement leaders and told them "that he would be willing to consider changing the procedures only after a trial period."]

Beilin Suggests Talks on Palestinian Federation

TA3011161694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that if the gaps between the Palestinian and Israeli positions do not grow smaller over the next few weeks, especially with regard to the issue of elections, Israel should enter negotiations on the permanent arrangement.

Dr. Beilin said that the permanent arrangement should entail a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinian entity, the full demilitarization of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, modifications of the 1967 border, and a united Jerusalem.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that at a briefing for political correspondents Dr. Beilin also criticized various figures, including Labor party officials who call for the disavowal of the Oslo Agreement.

Sarid: DOP Allows IDF To Remain in Certain Areas

TA3011120694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

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[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel will not stage an across-the-board redeployment of its troops from Palestinian population centers in the territories, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

Instead, it will withdraw from some areas, partially pull back from others, and remain in certain areas, he said.

Acknowledging differences of opinion with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who has vowed not to move settlements during the interim period, Sarid insisted that this would be necessary even during the current phase.

Sarid said about 10 unspecified settlements should be moved to coincide with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, and listed informal criteria for which settlements in the territories should be moved.

He said settlements likely to be moved are "lone settlements that are far away, alone, with long roads that can only be reached by going through many Arab areas, (or) near densely populated Arab areas," and which required a large number of troops to protect.

Sarid's remarks came just as Rabin suggested in Hebron yesterday that the IDF may not withdraw from that city. [passage omitted]

Rabin's statement drew immediate condemnation from Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah. "Once again Rabin is trying to retreat from implementing the treaty by inventing more excuses and ideas that are totally rejected by the Palestinianf," al-Natshah said.

But when asked if he thought the Palestinians would accept his "halfway" proposal, Sarid suggested they had little choice. "If they don't understand this, they will understand," Sarid said.

He insisted this was not a violation of the DOP [Declaration of Principles], since that accord was a declaration of principles, worded broadly enough so as to provide Israel and Palestinians with flexibility in implementation.

Article 13 of the DOP calling for IDF redeployment does not explicitly say that a pullback will occur from all Palestinian population centers.

Sarid said, however, that it is not feasible for Israel to remain in all the settlements.

"Under the agreement we are not obligated to move a settlement during the interim period. But if unilaterally we think this is the thing to do, then we should do it when the IDF redeploys. Why not? Why would this be catastrophic?" he asked.

Ministers View Developments in Peace Process

NC3011065194 Paris AFP in English 0038 GMT 30 Nov 94

[Report by Luc de Barochez]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Nov 30 (AFP)—Israel is hesitant to move onto the next stage of the peace process with the Palestinians, with its army reluctant to a redeployment on the West Bank.

For the first time since the signing of the self-rule deal with the PLO in September 1993, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Sunday [27 November] asked the government to debate how to continue the peace process. The debate took eight hours.

"We have to make a choice and Rabin should settle the matter," a minister close to Rabin told AFP.

"Either we continue the process and eventually discuss the final status of the territories, or we call it off and stop at Gaza and Jericho," he said, asking not to be named.

The debate is rooted in Israel's fears over the security of its 120,000 settlers on the West Bank in case self-rule, launched in Gaza and Jericho since May, is extended to the territory.

The PLO-Israel deal provides for a redeployment of the Israeli army outside built-up areas of the West Bank ahead of elections to a Palestinian self-rule council—the next key stage of autonomy.

But the army says such a move would increase the points of friction between the Palestinians and settlers.

The leading generals, including chief-of-staff Ehud Barak, as well as the latest opinion polls are pushing Rabin to wait and see.

"The army is trying to slow down the process, and the chief-of- staff is trying to intimidate the government by saying the army can not guarantee security if elections are held in the territories," the minister said.

Another minister, who also requested anonymity, pointed out that "the latest secret opinion polls to have reached Rabin's desk show that the Israeli public prefers security to risk-taking."

Rabin's Labour Party secretary-general Nisim Zvili warned Monday that the government was going "too quickly" in negotiations with the PLO, and suggested putting the peace process on hold for two years.

"The Israeli people are not ready to take the same risks as the government is to push forward the peace process," he said.

Faced with such concerns, Rabin told Israeli television on Tuesday he could give the go-ahead for the Palestinian elections without the army having to be redeployed.

"We must examine how possible it would be to organise elections without our army being obliged to withdraw from West Bank towns, it's a question that is worth negotiating," with the Palestinians, he said.

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Earlier, he repeated that "his main concern was security" and not to respect the timetable set by the Declaration of Principles. "I told the Palestinians no date was sacred," he said.

A senior Israeli official said Rabin was "speaking with two tongues: on the one hand, he says he wants to make progress, and on the other, he says obstacles stand in his way."

"Unfortunately, it seems he's adopted the army point of view to slow down the process," a minister said, asking not to be named.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid was dismayed with the military. "The peace process with the Palestinians is up to the politicians," he told AFP.

"The army should not lecture us, despite all the respect I owe to the chief-of-staff, it not up to him to decide," he added.

Another "dovish" minister, Uzi Baram, expressed "worry that things are not moving."

"I think we should go as fast as possible with the elections in the territories and also progress in the talks with the Syrians, otherwise we will lose the 1996 elections."

Zvili: People Not Willing To Share Risks of Peace

TA2811153394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 94 p A1

[Report by Orit Galili]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We have two years until the next Knesset elections, and, if we make a mistake in the pace with which we make political moves, we should say so without any shame," Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili has told HA'ARETZ.

"The people," Zvili said, "are not willing to share the risks the government is willing to take for the promotion of peace." Polls that Labor has recently conducted show that the Israeli public would rather have a sense of safety and stability now than anticipate the future opportunities that the peace process entails. He said that the government's and prime minister's policy regarding the tracks of negotiations with the Palestinians and Syria will henceforth be determined in accordance with these findings.

The polls also show that a large number of the people who voted for Labor and Meretz in the last elections are today undecided on how to vote. The Labor secretary general believes the reason for this to be the fact that too many issues on our agenda are currently open and none have been settled yet.

"Those voters gave the peace process a big chance, but the breakthrough with the Palestinians is currently encountering difficulties, and the government cannot find an answer." It is hard to argue with facts, Zvili said. "In 1994, the number of Israelis killed in terror attacks is double the number of fatalities killed before the Oslo agreement was signed."

According to Zvili, after the elections, there was a feeling that Israel's leadership had established a firm position regarding the negotiations with Syria. Presently, the issue comes on and off our agenda, and the public understands neither the Syrian nor the Israeli position. "We must choose a path and stick to it: Either we go all the way, with no interim stages, or we significantly slow down the stages of the political negotiations," he said.

This does not exactly correspond with my personal views," the Labor secretary general said, "but if we reach the conclusion that Yasir 'Arafat cannot be trusted, the public should be told: 'The Palestinians are not yet ready to continue. We are halting the implementation of the Gaza and Jericho agreement.' In two years from now, that is, after the elections, we will consider the next step."

"On the Syrian track, we should state: We offered a package deal, but we cannot fully withdraw from the Golan Heights. Such a determined position would restore the public's confidence." According to Zvili, the government looks pale, not because the ministers do not function well but because they are overshadowed by the prime minister.

Oslo Accord Failed Security 'Reality Check'

TA2911161494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili said today that, in terms of security arrangements, the Oslo agreement has failed the reality check and should be amended. It is impossible to evacuate combat soldiers from Hebron, leaving the settlers in the heart of the city unprotected. Zvili told our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal that Israel must choose between leaving the army in its current deployment in the territories and scaling back the settlements. According to him, the issue will be brought up before the Labor institutions in the coming days.

Regarding party affairs, Zvili said that any attempt to undermine the status of Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres is tantamount to political suicide by the Labor Party.

Zvili Presented Plan To Change Labor Party Leaders

TA2911114394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Nov 94 p 9

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Labor Party's electorate must realize that it is time to bid a farewell to the two men who have been their leaders for over 20 years—

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Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres. These leaders remain enthralled by outmoded conceptions and must vacate the stage if they want the Labor Party to remain in power." This was the conclusion a group of researchers presented to Labor Party Secretary General Zvili at a meeting in his bureau at the end of last week.

The meeting was attended by Professor Gid'on Doron, Hayim Asa, and Labor Party Spokesman Yoram Dori. In the course of the discussion, Hayim Asa said that the Labor Party must field a new generation of leaders. "The leadership must make sure that the people are with the party," the participants said. "It must confront the issues that concern the public and not focus exclusively on the political process."

The Labor Party secretary general refused to comment on this report yesterday.

Labor To Support Reshuffle

TA3011050594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Menashe Raz video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili says that Labor will support the prime minister if he decides to carry out a ministerial reshuffle. The secretary says that harming Rabin's status is tantamount to suicide by the Labor Party. The internal strife in the party continued today, and ministers leveled criticism at the way the prime minister and his office director general treat some of the ministers. Our party affairs correspondent Menashe Raz filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Is it true that Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, handed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a report that details the failures of some of his cabinet ministers?

[Rabin] What report?

[Raz] That they do not function....

[Rabin, interrupting] Come on. Enough with this nonsense.

[Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer] Not everyone who knows how to write letters can determine what is to be done.

[Finance Minister Avraham Shohat] Shim'on Sheves is Rabin's problem, not mine. Also, I could not care less for the document, if it exists at all, and I do not know that it does.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] The prime minister does not refer to this. He weighs things in view of the results and not according to the newspapers.

[Labor and Social Welfare Minister Ora Namir] I care very much for this government. It is very important to me. Sometimes, I am really afraid that we might lose a great opportunity. We are making giant steps toward peace and doing quite impressive things in the social sphere. But, I fear that the very heavy burden shouldered by the prime minister and defense minister regarding the events that are currently taking place on the Palestinian issue causes quite a significant amount of stress. Also, in view of this, the prime minister is preoccupied with defense and foreign affairs—and rightfully so—but this means that he deals less with internal affairs.

[Raz] Labor party activists feel frustrated. The polls have not been very flattering recently. Could a reshuffle of certain ministers be a solution for the government's midterm crisis?

[Zvili] If the prime minister reaches the conclusion that, in order to improve the performance of the cabinet and improve its communication with the public while dealing better with really serious problems, he must replace some of the ministers or appoint new ones, I believe that the party would back him up on this. [passage omitted]

[Raz] In the meantime, the Labor Information and Media Department began a propaganda campaign today. It will present the government's successes, mainly in domestic issues, naturally hoping that the public would be convinced. [end recording]

Maj. Gen. Levin Appointed Head of Northern Command

TA2911133894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General 'Amiram Levin has been appointed commander of the Northern Command, replacing Yithzaq Mordekhay. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Maj. Gen. Levin is 48 years old and was Dorn in Kibbutz Lehavot Habashan. He has been serving in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] for almost 30 years and was promoted to major general two years ago.

IDF Completes Electronic Fence Around Gaza Strip

TA3011091994 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Roni Sofer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Major General Sha'ul Mofaz, commander of the Southern Command, witnessed the completion of the border fence built around the Gaza Strip. As of yesterday afternoon, the entire 54-km fence is connected to an electronic early-warning system.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] thus hopes to put an end to that chapter in history involving terrorist infiltrations from Gaza into the areas within the Green Line.

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The construction of the electronic fence was completed seven months ahead of schedule and cost 100 million shekels.

IDF Construction Center officers believe it provides an exceptional response to attempts to slip out of the autonomy.

Beilin: U.S. Must Crack Down on Fundamentalists

TA3011054294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says the American law should be changed to act against extreme Islamic activity in the United States. Beilin told the Knesset last night that the team which worked on the American television documentary about Islamic extremism that was shown last week had even more serious evidence of such activity in the U.S. but decided not to include it in their film. Reporter David Ze'ev has details:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] The deputy foreign minister was responding to motions for the agenda in the Knesset plenum on the film aired last week in the United States, where Beilin viewed it, as well as in Israel, on the activities of extreme Islamic organizations in the U.S. Last night, Deputy Minister Beilin called on the Americans to crack down:

[Beilin] On the one hand, I believe that there is room to change the American law so that occurrences like that, instigations like that, which take place now in the United States by the Islamic extremist groups, would be considered as offenses, as crimes, and not as it is today, when it is impossible even to begin investigation against the background of these events. Another point is to use the immigration laws of the United States in order to deal with these people, who cannot—I believe—use the American shelter and continue their activities without any interruption.

[Ze'ev] The deputy foreign minister said the Americans could take an example from Israel:

[Beilin] We changed our law about eight years ago, and incitement in a racist way is a criminal law. I think that something like that should take place also in other democracies in the world.

[Ze'ev] Beilin calls on the Israel lobby in the U.S., AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee], to encourage the effort. [end recording]

Activists Attempt To Enter Temple Mount

TA3011094894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Another attempt to enter the Temple Mount area: Nine former Kakh activists attempted to enter the Temple Mount this morning in order to pray there. The nine were detained for interrogation. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that today the police will ask a judge to remand 10 other right-wing activists who entered the Temple Mount yesterday.

Hamas Activists Arrested for Role in Bombing

TA2911191594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet has arrested 40 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, including persons suspected of involvement in the Tel Aviv bus bombing. Some of them were arrested on suspicion of aiding Salah Nazzal, the suicide terrorist, and Yahya 'Ayyash, who planned the attack.

The search for Hamas fugitive Yahya 'Ayyash, nicknamed the Engineer, is not over yet, but over the past several days, the Shin Bet has detained some 40 Hamas activists who assisted him, mainly by giving him shelter. In their investigation, they disclosed that 'Ayyash, who planned the car bombs in 'Afula and Hadera, also prepared Salah Nazzal for his suicide attack in Tel Aviv. Searches conducted in the house of one of the detainees in the village of Zawiyah revealed explosives, a large quantity of arms, army uniforms, and skullcaps that were to be used by the terrorists in their future activities.

One of the detainees is suspected of planning another suicide attack that was aborted because the explosive charge he had prepared exploded before he left for the attack. The suspects revealed that the engineer planned several additional attacks over the past several weeks, including a suicide attack at the Petah Tiqva market place and a car bomb explosion next to an Israeli bus in Samaria. The 40 Hamas members who were arrested are residents of Judaea and Samaria, most of them had served time in Israeli prisons, and four of them were among those deported to Lebanon.

The security authorities are aware of the fact that the recent successes Hamas has scored encourage its activists to carry out more attacks, and their main effort still focuses on the attempt to capture the brains behind the attack, Yahya 'Ayyash.

Likud Urges Continued Control of Areas

TA3011083694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud faction says the apprehension of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists proves that an effective campaign against terrorism necessitates Israel's maintaining control over the area. Knesset Member Beni Begin told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that it is now clear that the cooperation between the PLO and Hamas in Gaza and

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Jericho encourages acts of terrorism; consequently, Israel must not pursue the implementation of the Oslo agreement.

Hamas 'Terrorist' Caught in Janin

TA3011113694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kamal Jamil, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist who participated in an attack against border policemen last week, was caught in Janin early yesterday. One terrorist was killed in last week's incident, whereas Jamil hid in a mosque minaret in the Janin refugee camp. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that the security forces surrounded the mosque and brought Jamil's mother to the site. She convinced him to surrender peacefully.

Authorities Seal Houses of Wachsman Killers

TA2911114594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, the Israel Police and Border Police sealed the houses of two of the murderers of soldier Nahshon Wachsman and the house of one of their accomplices.

In the village of Bayt Hanina north of Jerusalem, the police sealed the house of murderer 'Abd-al-Karim Badr and the house of his accomplice Jihad Yaghmur. In East Jerusalem's Ra's al-'Amud neighborhood, the authorities sealed the house of murderer Husayn al-Natshah.

Home Front Said Not Prepared for Nuclear Attack

TA2511123094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Nov 94 p A5

[Report by security affairs correspondent Sharon Sade]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli security sources say that home-front preparations for chemical and biological weapons have still not been completed but that the situation in this sphere has greatly improved since the Gulf War. The Israeli home front, on the other hand, is not prepared for a nuclear attack.

Over the last few months the government and security forces have made several decisions aimed at improving home-front preparations for missile attacks. During the National Emergency Board [NEB] Supreme Committee meeting it was noted that last June the government decided that there would be no sweeping and automatic decision to close down schools in case of war; the decision will be made according to circumstances. It was decided to build more shelters in educational institutions countrywide.

At the same time a new plan was worked out for classifying and declaring various factories as vital and putting them under the authority of the NEB. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the NEB have agreed to release thousands of vital reservists to fulfill roles in the NEB.

In addition, it was decided in coordination with local authorities countrywide that responsibility for evacuating and absorbing civilians during emergency periods will be vested in the local authorities rather than the IDF, except for cases of massive evacuations of civilians from one area to another, which will be carried out by the Home Front Command.

The NEB has also decided to significantly increase the number of vehicles to be mobilized for use by the Home Front Command during emergencies. It was decided in coordination with army officers that the number of trucks and vehicles to be used for transferring foodstuffs and other vital equipment would be doubled. Hundreds of women have been trained as bus and truck drivers, since there are not enough men available during emergency periods.

During the last NEB Supreme Committee meeting officials voiced concern about a serious shortage in emergency frozen-meat reserves, because of the privatization of meat imports. It turned out that this concern was unwarranted but that the cost of replenishing the emergency frozen-meat stocks will be higher than expected.

Editorial Views 'About-Face' in Peace Policy

TA3011122894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Nov 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Cracks in the Political Wall"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although his style and his "sense of humor" were as uncouth as ever, the new tone in Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks during his visit to Hebron yesterday could not be ignored. He almost openly conceded that the shortcomings in the Oslo agreement will seriously hinder its implementation.

The difficulty centers on the clause in the agreement stipulating that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] must pull out of the center of cities in Judaea and Samaria prior to the elections to the autonomy institutions.

Yesterday, the prime minister no longer maintained the illusion that the peace process will increase security in the territories evacuated by the IDF. Based on his Gaza experience, he knows that the exact opposite is true. And, the problem of what will be the fate of the settlers in Judaea and Samaria after the IDF pullout stood out in all its severity.

Its seriousness was evident in the prime minister's willingness to consider out loud solutions that are incompatible with the Oslo agreement. He told settlers in Hebron that the possibility of holding elections in the autonomy

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without pulling the IDF out of the cities should be examined and went on to say that "as for Hebron, we will have to find a special solution."

If we add to the above what Rabin said about the peace negotiations with Syria ("there are gaps between us; there are issues we consider a prerequisite which prevent progress, but we cannot forgo them"), it transpires that Israel's peace policy is on the verge of an about-face.

The mind still refuses to believe that an about-face will occur. Israel is too tied to the peace process to undo it without the ensuing personal and political shock bringing down the unstable peace edifice. But something ought to change.

It is no coincidence that Labor Party Secretary Nisim Zvili chose this of all times to publicly affirm his and the party's loyalty and obedience to Rabin, if the prime minister should for any reason decide to reshuffle his cabinet. Rabin does not need it, but Zvili's pledge comes on the heels of other signs of cracks in the wall which call for introspection and perhaps even for a reassessment of the situation.

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Security Chief on Israeli Withdrawal, Border Issues

JN2911155694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Major General Tahsin Shurdum, head of the Jordanian Security and Border Committee, has said that Jordanian military units have taken all necessary measures to deploy in the areas that will be evacuated by the Israeli forces in accordance with a timetable that is currently being prepared.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, he said that during their meeting in al-'Aqabah today, the Jordanian and Israeli security and border committees will discuss certain subjects pertaining to joint security and border issues between Jordan and Israel. He also pointed out that the meeting was directly linked to border demarcation and the return of the Israeli forces to their pre-1967 positions.

Relations With PA Said in 'Profound Crisis'

JN3011101194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Nov 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Marwan Dudin, member of Jordan's negotiating team to the bilateral talks [with Israel] and head of Jordan's delegation to the refugee working group in the multilateral talks, has said relations between the Jordanian Government and the Palestinian Authority are experiencing a profound crisis. This strained official relationship, he added, is not likely to improve unless the performance of the Palestinian leadership improves. This is a purely Palestinian affair which should be worked out domestically, he said.

In a lecture he gave yesterday as part of the activities of the first week of the Political Science Department at the University of Jordan, Dudin added: The relationship between the Jordanian Government and the PLO does not necessarily reflect on relations between Jordanians and Jordanians of Palestinian origin, between Jordanians and West Bankers, between Jordanians and Gazans, or between Jordanians and Palestinians in the diaspora. The crisis is an official one between governments, he said. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the obligations of the peace treaty and official relations between the Jordanian Government and the PLO, Dudin said Jordan has adopted a serious and sincere attitude toward the Palestinian situation. He said: Jordan will not allow internal Palestinian differences to reach it, noting that there are limitless prospects for relations between the two parties if the Palestinian side chooses this—although we have not yet heard from them anything that corresponds to our true intentions toward them. As for future unionist ties between the two peoples, this issue will be settled after the Palestinian people have attained their self-determination.

Al-'Anani on Syria, Opposition to Treaty

JN2611131394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Nov 94 p 18

[Report by Caroline Faraj]

[FBIS Translated Text] The most prominent of the important events in the region has been the beginning of a peaceful new life between Jordan and Israel following the 26 October signing of the peace treaty at Wadi al-'Arabah. This political event has been very controversial with the emergence of supporters and opposers giving various justifications for or against the treaty on the local and Arab levels such as the Palestinian self-rule authority and Syria.

In a long and frank interview, Dr. Jawed al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs, answered questions by a number of local and Arab reporters on the peace treaty, local and Arab opposition and its causes, the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian and Jordanian-Arab relationship, and other important political topics.

On the priorities concerning the implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty, al-'Anani said that the treaty stipulates that 23 agreements have to be prepared for signature during the next nine months. Embassies will open on 10 January. This will be followed by telephone links and electricity links between al-'Aqabah and Elat and shifting power loads during the day and at night. The border changes will be made within the next nine months. The removal of barbed wire and the withdrawal to the cease-fire lines will be completed within three months.

On the local opposition and its relations with the government, al-'Anani said: Some may ask why the government is interfering in the affairs of preachers at this particular time. The preachers know the answer. They escalated their campaign after that which they had asked the people to rebel had bec me a reality; namely, the treaty.

Al-'Anani added: I believe that there should be opposition. The Jordanian society cannot completely agree on anything. However, I believe that the big event which we have witnessed was not given its due consideration when it occurred. The opposition's methods before and after the treaty remained the same; nothing changed. Their stand is an affirmation of a previous stand. I believe the differences stem from personal interpretations. However, can an association or union that is not legally registered call for and hold a meeting and make its case known? Of course not. A law cannot be violated even if it is wrong, especially in circumstances that are so sensitive.

Al-'Anani added: We must admit that there is a high degree of sensitivity on both sides.

Answering a question on the terms of reference the Interior Ministry uses to prevent demonstrations, meetings, and rallies under the pretext that this would contradict with the law of peace treaty, and on whether the terms of reference are the Constitution, the National Charter, or the peace treaty law, al-'Anani said: The Constitution is the terms of reference although there are

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no contradictions among all the above. If the treaty itself contravenes the Constitution, then it is null and void.

Al-'Anani added: The question now, which was raised by the Islamic Action Front and others, does not relate to the treaty but to the negotiating process with Israel because of the decision of disengagement with the West Bank. This question is: Was the disengagement decision constitutional or not? If the answer is that the decision was unconstitutional, then Jordan's responsibility about its rights must also include the West Bank; that is, everything occupied in 1967, because it is an integral part of the Kingdom.

Al-'Anani pointed out that concerning public liberties, there is no contradiction because what is considered here is the methods by which the opposition voices its opinion irrespective of whether or not they [the public liberties] are in the treaty.

Al-'Anani said: The treaty did not violate the constitutional right of free opinion. However, it said for instance that the 1954 citizenship law is no longer necessary because all those of Arab nationalities, except the Jews, who resided on the West Bank territory in 1954, automatically became Jordanian nationals. This article has outlasted its objectives.

Al-'Anani said: Jordan gives passports for two and five years. Can we strip a Jordanian citizen of his citizenship just because he is residing in the West Bank under a Palestinian national authority? This is also related to the constitutionality of the disengagement decision issued in 1988. Some jurists say this is not legal but many say that it is.

Al-'Anani added: In principle and according to the treaty and the Constitution, any law that contravenes the treaty must be amended to agree with it. The treaty does not stipulate punishments for those who violate its clauses.

Dr. al-'Anani said: Undoubtedly, the treaty is a very sensitive issue and has also heightened the degree of sensitivity between the supporters and opponents. Therefore, I can say that this state of heightened sensitivity is very dangerous indeed. If either side loses control, the worst could happen and this will not be acceptable to either side. Therefore, it is proper and important to watch the reaction of both sides.

Asked if there were an overabundance in recent security measures, including the security cordon imposed on the day the treaty was discussed in parliament, Dr. al-'Anani said: Providing security in this country is not the opposition's responsibility, but that of the executive branch and any lack in that regard will not be blamed on the opposition. We do not disagree on the principle of maintaining security. We have our own views on security measures. The question is: Were they necessary or not? Was there an overabundance? I do not know the reasons behind the decisions of the security men or on what he based their position. However, I would rather err on the side of caution so things can proceed peacefully, and ensure that there are no flaws because the cost of the flaw, should there be one, will be much higher than the cost of sitting down now to analyze whether the security measures were exaggerated.

Regarding the recent meeting which party leaders had with His Majesty King Husayn at the Royal Palace, where it was observed that no one from the opposition had been invited, and as to whether this was some sort of reprimand to the opposition, Dr. al-'Anani said: His majesty is the king of all citizens and this, I think, is the secret of the Hashemite family's success.

He added: The question is why does the opposition refuse to attend the parliament's opening session, which was addressed by His Majesty King Husayn, and five minutes later they enter the hall and attend all other sessions and then speak to the foreign media such as the CNN.

He added: His majesty the king has the right to express his views but this does not mean he does not wish to speak to the opposition. I myself have raised this issue with his majesty. He said he will sit and talk with the opposition. However, it was feared that if he talks with the opposition at a certain stage and in such a manner, it may appear as if he was reprimanding it and exerting pressure on it. His majesty instead conveyed his position via the television and in the press interviews and turned them into special media events to convey his position and priorities as he views them as a king concerned about the interest of this country at this stage.

Dr. al-'Anani said: The most dangerous thing in the treaty is that it may create differences in opinions over its formula and make things appear as if we have a conflict amongst us. In fact there is no conflict just an effort to organize relations. We are all looking for means to formulate these relations apart from a any treaty. What is happening is the result of the democratization process and the difficulty and sensitivity of the Jordanian position. Our differences in opinions must be expressed in the best possible way so that we can preserve and develop this country.

Asked about who will take the initiative to mend fences between the government and the opposition, Dr. al-'Anani said: We must always have points of reference to achieve a reconciliation. The first is his majesty the king, or one can say the institution of the monarchy. His majesty is the king of all citizens and he can strike a balance between everyone on the various issues. The second is the wise men of this nation. We must have a group of wise men whose opinions must be accepted as coming from people who have no vested interests and whose aim is only to protect the supreme interest. Third, the government must, naturally, start the dialogue and open all channels.

He added: We can say that both sides will definitely show an inclination toward reconciliation, particularly if

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one side feels that the other is prepared for that. However, and according to my information, I can say that we do not have in Jordan the so-called institutionalized opposition.

Al-'Anani stressed the need for constant dialogue on all levels. He said: Dialogue is necessary because we have to agree that regardless of our position and regardless of whether we agree or disagree with what is happening, we must all agree that the next phase is a very sensitive one and requires an agreement over a specific course and the pooling of all energies in the country.

Asked why there is no distribution of roles between the opposition and the government when discussing politics, Dr. al- 'Anani said: In fact I do not support the theory of the distribution of roles because it will not succeed. The government benefited a great deal during the negotiations from the existence of the opposition. The loud and strong voices which the opposition raised put a weapon in my hand.

Al-'Anani said: Foreign journalists, as well as tourists, often ask us if the Jordanian people accept our assessment of the peace treaty. We always tell them that many Jordanians have not yet taken a specific position pending the results. In addition, the process will need some time to be accepted because people were startled by it. Foreigners usually contrast the Israelis' enthusiasm and the Jordanians' coolness toward the treaty. Israeli tourists are pouring into Jordan while no Jordanian tourists are going to Israel.

He also said that Jordanian citizens go to the West Bank via the bridges and not the crossings and then they go to Israel. If they want to go to Israel [directly], they have to obtain visas and admit in advance that they will enter Israel. This is the psychological difference between the Jordanians and the Israelis.

Regarding the way we deal with the Israeli Palestinian Arabs and whether we are compelled to deal with them as Israelis and whether we should work out a certain way of dealing with them, Dr. al-'Anani said: When I met some of them, they told me that instead of encouraging them to deal with us directly, we are dealing with them through the Israelis. Therefore, there are doubts on this issue, which should be resolved.

Regarding the absence of a clear-cut government position on the Gaza incidents in favor or against the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], Dr. al-'Anani said: Jordan declared its position on the Palestinian Authority [PA] in April when it officially recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. However, we are not responsible for the monopoly of political trends within the Palestinian people. The PLO maintains the principle of pluralism. So, we have nothing to do with what is happening. If Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] decides to reach an agreement with the Fatah leadership or any other side, then this is their own affair. Jordan is not responsible for the Palestinian political mosaic.

He added: As the Jordanian information minister, I cannot say that the PNA has shortcomings or whether it is working soundly or not. We hear a great deal of criticism and a little praise about it, and we do not project our views on the issue because we do not want to interfere in its domestic affairs and because there no room for more criticism. I can say that no one exactly knows what happened in Gaza and that we do not have enough information.

He added: We hope that the PLO and Hamas will reach an agreement in the interest of the Palestinian people at this particular stage. We, in Jordan, are very eager to see clear progress and a solution to these problems.

Al-'Anani also said that the situation there is very difficult and complicated and that we, in Jordan, cannot protect ourselves from its repercussions whether it continues as it is or becomes graver, God forbid. Therefore, we should support reconciliation because Fatah and Hamas are the two biggest political forces in the Palestinian arena and it is time for them to recognize each other.

Dr. al-'Anani quoted some Israeli officials as saying that they would not withdraw from Gaza as long as fedayeen operations continued and because they do not want to appear as if they withdrew under Hamas' pressure. I am sure they will withdraw.

Regarding Syria's objection to the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty and the reason why Syria objects to the issue of leasing some territory, Dr. al-'Anani said: I believe Syria wants to say that there is nothing important in the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty except the issue of leasing territory. They also want to say that if they succeed in negotiations with the Israelis on any arrangement with the issue of leasing, then their solution will be better than that of the Jordanians. However, the Syrians know that there is a difference between an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and Syrian political sovereignty over the Golan. It is likely that a weapons-free zone will be established there—a zone in which no investment may be permitted.

Al-'Anani then pointed out that the candidate for the chairmanship of the U.S. Congressional Foreign Relations Committee, who is from North Carolina, stated during Rabin's recent visit to the United States that he opposed sending U.S. forces to the Golan. The U.S. official, however, appeared once again and said that he would not object to sending soldiers there. Syria may not lease territory but will accept the presence of U.S. soldiers. In this case, Syria will not freely exercise its sovereignty there. The Syrians want to say this is better than leasing territory. However, it is premature to tackle this issue.

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He added: After I heard the Syrian criticism of the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty, I knew that they were exploiting it in the interest of the expected Syrian agreement [with Israel].

He said: The Jordanian treaty includes many precedents from which the other parties can benefit, foremost of which is the principle of restoring territories in full. Israel wanted to send Syria a message which is rejected by the Syrians; namely, that the Jordanian-Israeli Treaty has returned all [of Jordan's] territories. So, why does Syria reject this? Because Israel wants to tell Syria let us negotiate directly without the mediation of the Americans. But Syria wants to have a regional role. This is why they insist on the U.S. mediation, but Israel rejects this role.

I believe that the Americans will reduce their role in the region. The proof is the postponement of Secretary Warren Christopher's tour of the region. After some time, the U.S. stand will push toward a Syrian-Israeli solution. This was very important before the recent elections in the United States. Now, the Americans have enough time to wait. The Syrians now should decide whether they want to continue with the negotiations through the Americans, providing that this entails postponement, or to expedite things through direct negotiations with Israel. There are some expectations that some committees are actually holding negotiations with Israel.

Regarding Lebanon, Dr. al-'Anani said: The Americans used to ignore the Lebanese issue in return for a Syrian-Israeli agreement, especially since they did not want to create problems for Syria, which would make it hesitate to join the peace process. However, things have changed in light of what is being said to the effect that the Americans do not want to be involved in external issues.

He said: We have begun to hear voices from Lebanon which stress the need for settling its cause separately. The proof of this is the statement Rabin made less than a month ago in which he unjustifiably said that they [the Israelis] do not recognize Resolution 425, which is the basis for the Lebanese delegation's participation in the Madrid Conference. At the time, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that they joined the talks based on Resolutions 425 and 426, and Resolution 242. After this, this issue was not brought up again.

Regarding reports that Jordan has expressed its readiness to mediate between Syria and Israel but that Syria apologized or rejected this mediation, Dr. al-'Anani stressed that Jordan has not asked for mediation or even offered it. Neither has Syria asked for this.

Concerning the importance of the Palestinian dimension to Jordan, Dr. al-'Anani said: The Palestinians' relationship with Jordan is an indivisible whole. The most difficult issue for us is that while we see that there is a possibility for beginning economic and trade cooperation with Israel available, at the same time, we cannot export anything to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian economy depends on Israel in terms of manpower and money, as if by securing financial aid to the self-rule, Rabin has become a patron saint to the Palestinians.

He added: Based on this, we should cooperate in a clear and strong manner without making political sensitivities affect future cooperation between the two banks. This is because Jordan will be compelled to finance part of any current or future disorder in the Palestinian economy. Based on this, we wanted to reinforce the Palestinian economy and its structure, for Jordan is the window and the support [for the Palestinians], not Egypt.

He said: Every time someone discusses the current Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, I feel that he seeks to disrupt it.

Speaking about the issue of the displaced as an example, he said: The issue of the displaced necessitates forming a quadripartite Jordanian-Palestinian-Egyptian-Israeli committee. However, the Egyptians, supported by the Palestinian National Authority, say that this committee should discuss many other issues such as the economy. This is as if someone is trying to say that a Jordanian-Palestinian relationship cannot be established without having a parallel line with Egypt. We are not against dealing with Egypt, but as Jordan, we do not accept this relationship being based on this. This is tasteless and unjustified.

He added: If the Palestinian economy is integrated, then the best state to serve as a gate for it is Jordan, not Egypt. Egypt will not allow the Gazan citizens to move and cooperate freely with Egypt as was the case at least between 1956-1967.

Al-'Anani wondered: What is required of Jordan? Are we required to relinquish Jerusalem and revoke our guardianship over its awqaf? Can the Palestinians play such a role if we were to do so? The PNA might be seeking to settle its claims to Jerusalem's holy shrines with Jordan rather than Israel. But why can't it defer the discussion of the issue with Jordan just as it has done with Israel?

With regard to the conception of the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, Dr. al-'Anani said: We do not have any future conception in this regard as long as the Palestinian people are denied the right to self-determination.

Al-'Anani added: It is still unclear whether or not the five functions the PNA was supposed to have taken over in accordance with the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement; namely, tourism, social affairs, health, education, and direct taxation, entail any territorial jurisdiction. For instance, the PA has taken over the responsibility for education. But, can it supervise educational activities within the walls of Jerusalem? Husni al-Ashhab [not further identified] has said that he does not have the money to pay the teachers working at Jerusalem schools. Who is responsible for helping him obtain funds to pay these teachers?

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Al-'Anani went on to say: The paradox is that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has created obligations for Jordan. After some thought, Jordan accepted these obligations as they are. During our economic negotiations with the Palestinians, we argued that based on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, we as Jordanians and Palestinians must implement a host of measures.

Dr. al-'Anani said: Let us acknowledge that this phase is a transitional one, that it has numerous difficulties, and that the solutions to these difficulties can be neither easy nor instantaneous. But Jordan cannot base its positions on the assumption that the PNA has become a government in charge of an independent state—one that can address bilateral exchange with Jordan. It is to be recalled that Jordan was the only Arab and world state to have declared that the Palestinians are the only party entitled to exercise sovereignty over Palestinian soil. It acted on this premise when it severed its ties with the West Bank.

Dr. al-'Anani added: Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] believes that Jordan does not enjoy large popular support in the Palestinian territories, because most of the residents of the territories; that is, the new generation which makes up almost 70 percent of the population there, are unfamiliar with Jordan, and have nothing to do with Jordan. Given this fact, he should have no fears if Jordan gets involved in activities in the Palestinian territories. But it goes without saying that the population of the territories are angry with the PNA, because of its failure in terms of performance. Over the past six months, the PNA has failed to live up to the people's expectations. But this does not necessarily mean that Jordan's popularity there has been boosted or improved. The population of the territories are looking for an alternative leadership.

Al-'Anani concluded by saying: Abu-'Ammar is issuing anti-Jordanian rhetoric in a bid to restore his popularity in the territories. For example, he has said that we covet Jerusalem. Had he defined the real issue, there would have been no problem in this regard in the first place. This conduct cannot help create the required association between the two peoples. Regrettably, there are fears or phobias that any positive Jordanian role in the Palestinian territories will be detrimental to Abu-'Ammar's popularity.

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Council of Ministers Meets, Discusses Domestic Issues

Livelihood-Related Issues Not Addressed

NC2911212094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Report by Yazbik Wahbah at the Presidential Palace in B'abda—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In its session tonight, the Council of Ministers failed to discuss livelihood-related issues and the report of the ministerial committee on labor demands. This is because the council did not want to discuss this subject under the pressure of the strike, as announced by Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr. Al-Murr said the council did not get to this item—labor demand—in its discussion of the agenda, and, therefore, its discussion was postponed until next Thursday [8 December].

The Council of Ministers affirmed the instructions given by the President of the Republic to the justice minister and, through him, to general prosecutions to complete investigations into the drug case, no matter who is involved. The council also asked the ministers of justice and information to do what is necessary to pursue news media that violate the law, especially the Publications Law.

The council entrusted the ministers of interior and defense to follow up on the intra-Palestinian fighting in the camps and to implement the provisions of the July 1991 agreement. The council also entrusted every minister to warn the employees of his ministry who participated in the strike today, and it praised the efforts of the security forces.

Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr, who read out the decisions, said the labor demands concern the government, which wants to be fair to the poor. But he stressed that the principle of demonstrations is absolutely unacceptable and that the Council of Ministers has banned all forms of demonstrations. He praised the democratic expression of the General Workers Federation. He announced that the Council of Ministers will meet again in B'abda Palace on Thursday, the day after tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Political, Security Issues Discussed

NC3011083994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At its meeting yesterday the Cabinet emphasized the need to pursue the investigation into the drugs file to the end no matter who is involved. It asked the ministers of information and justice to do what is necessary regarding information media that violate the law, particularly the Publications Law. It entrusted the ministers of interior and defense to implement a resolution passed by the Cabinet in 1991 relating to camp fighting. It entrusted the competent ministers to warn employees who took part in the strike.

Interior Minister Michel al-Murr said that at its next meeting the Cabinet will study the ministerial committee report on workers' demands. Al-Murr said:

[Begin recording] [al-Murr] The Cabinet discussed current political, security, and other issues in general. President al-Hirawi opened the session and broached particular issues. Prime Minister al-Hariri then made a statement. After a discussion in which most of the ministers took part, agreement was reached on the following:

1. To emphasize President al-Hirawi's instructions to the justice minister and through him to the public prosecution offices to pursue the investigation into the drugs file to the end no matter who is involved.

2. To ask the ministers of information and justice to take the necessary measures regarding information media that violate the law, particularly the Publications Law.

3. To entrust the ministers of interior and defense to implement the resolution passed by the Cabinet in 1991, since acts of aggression in the Palestinian camps harmed public security, individuals, and property.

4. The Cabinet noted recent measures to keep law and order and praised the efforts in this regard.

5. The competent ministers will warn the employees who took part in the strike and remind them of the procedures outlined in the employees law providing for punishment ranging from reprimands to dismissal.

The Cabinet then discussed other topics on the agenda and approved several clauses. Some clauses were postponed until the next session. The Cabinet decided to hold a meeting on Thursday 2 December [as heard] to discuss the remaining topics on the agenda.

[Unidentified correspondent] What is meant by entrusting the ministers of justice and information regarding violation of the Publications Law?

[Al-Murr] They have been entrusted to take the necessary measures. We discussed this issue but no particular decision was made on it. Newspapers and radios have exceeded limits and abused freedom. The ministers may draw their attention to this or take stricter measures. The ministers will decide on whatever is necessary to stop incitement and ensure that the country remains calm. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] decisions regarding camp fighting?

[Al-Murr] The Cabinet passed resolutions in 1991. I was defense minister then. The resolutions relate to extending the government's authority throughout Lebanon, including the Palestinian camps. The resolutions included several details. The military and security forces

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were not required to launch an offensive or battles against the camps. As you know, last week the situation inside the camps was intolerable. The camp inhabitants fled the fighting. In view of this the government will take the necessary measures in light of the Cabinet decision providing for extending the government's authority. At the time the Lebanese Army deployed in the south and in the east Sidon areas where the Palestinians were deployed. As for the measures the ministers of interior and defense will take on this issue, they will refer to the details of the Cabinet decision of 1991, and, in light of the new developments, we will propose to the Cabinet any other measures that might be necessary. But the government will not sit idly by as a spectator to this fighting.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] decision to collect the arms [words indistinct].

[Al-Murr] The decision made in 1991 provided for the deployment of the Lebanese Army throughout Lebanese territory. The Palestinian camps are located on Lebanese territory, where government authority must apply. What must be done and what the camp residents must be told is what the defense and interior ministers will decide in the next stage. The necessary measures will be taken in line with the resolution passed in 1991.

[Correspondent] When will these measures begin?

[Al-Murr] The Cabinet decided today that the measures will take effect as of tomorrow.

[Correspondent] The fighting has shown that the Palestinians still have weapons and can fight with each other, whereas the other Lebanese factions were disarmed. Are you considering collecting the arms from the Palestinians?

[Al-Murr] Your question suggests that this issue was not broached in 1991 or 1992. Let us refer to the resolution passed in 1991. I answer you as a former defense minister. A decision was made to collect the heavy and medium arms from all groups in Lebanon. The heavy and medium weapons were collected from all the groups, both Palestinians and Lebanese. We collected the heavy and medium weapons and ammunition from Palestinians in the camps. The Cabinet then discussed collecting the light weapons. To say that the Lebanese people do not have light weapons is untrue. Lebanese and non-Lebanese on lebanese territory have light weapons. The ministers of interior and justice will put forward proposals regarding this issue. Light weapons have not been collected from Lebanese and Palestinians. Most Lebanese and non-Lebanese have light weapons. When a decision is made at the appropriate time no one will have light weapons or ammunition in Lebanon. [passage omitted] [end recording].

GWF Chief Issues Statement on Agreement

NC3011110094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] General Workers Federation [GWF] Chief Ilyas Abu-Rizq this morning said he is not surprised by the government move to postpone discussing the workers' issue and livelihood-related affairs, because the agreement signed between the government and the GWF has not been implemented. He warned the government against any measure against public sector employees. In a statement to the Voice of Lebanon, he said:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Rizq] What happened yesterday was no surprise to us, because the government has not honored the agreement it signed with the GWF on 14 December 1993. It is not surprising that the government postpones the issue and stalls and prevaricates over solving workers' problems and livelihood-related affairs. We do not pin hopes on the government, because the issue has become only too obvious and the government's handling of the issues that concern the people is known. For this reason the Cabinet continues to postpone this issue under various pretexts, which have become known to the public.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Cabinet yesterday emphasized the decision banning demonstrations in a bid to block any escalatory steps by the GWF, particularly as you asserted yesterday that demonstrations may be staged. [Abu-Rizq] Staging demonstrations, strikes, and sit-ins is a legal right of the trade unions as stipulated in the Constitution. The government can prevent political demonstrations but not demonstrations aimed at highlighting demands for staples and freedom. If the trade union coordination committee meeting on Monday approves demonstrations, they will be staged and there will be a confrontation with the government, which must bear responsibility. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Newspapers Not To Be Published Due to Strike

NC3011084594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A general strike was launched in Lebanon yesterday in response to a call by the General Workers Federation. [passage omitted] The newspapers took part in the strike and will not be published today, 30 November. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah, Columnist React to Indyk Remarks

NC2911222794

[FBIS Editorial Report] Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic, the mouthpiece of Hizballah, publishes in its 18 November issue a report and a commentary containing reactions to a statement by Martin Indyk, head of the Middle East department of the U.S. National Security Council, in which he reportedly said that Hizballah, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and other similar Islamic movements are "on the brink of bankruptcy." In an 800-word report on page 5, Shiite leader 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah is cited as saying the American statement "proceeds from wishful thinking

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rather than from facts." According to the report, Fadlallah said: "They wish that the Islamic movements would go bankrupt. The work of these movements threatens the capitulation settlement and much of the arrogant policy. The popular base of these movements is still growing, causing a problem to the arrogant policy in the region."

Fadlallah adds: "Talk about the bankruptcy of the Islamic movements reflects the bankruptcy of the world arrogance and the loss of its ability to face and undermine these movements." Fadlallah reportedly added: "We are for peace, but a peace that preserves peoples' rights, respects man's humanity, and stops the arrogance of the arrogant; a peace that does not reward the criminal for his crime."

A 900-word article by 'Ali Mahmud on page 11 also contends that "Indyk's prophesy, which is not based on any analysis or explanation, is merely a wish." The writer explains how the U.S. Administration is in a rush to achieve a settlement in the region and argues that "the American peace holds the seeds of its own collapse, especially since it is not based on a minimum level of justice." He concludes: "The fate of Hizballah, like the fate of Hamas and all Islamic movements, is not dependent on the success or failure of the peace process. The issues raised by these movements are in harmony with the nature of the region's peoples, and they express their conscience." The writer says Indyk's remarks show an American desire to turn the struggle from one between the Arabs and Muslims on one side and Zionism on the other to one between the Arabs themselves or between the Arabs and Muslims.

Hizballah Officials on Reopening of Bombing Case

NC2911210694

[FBIS Editorial Report] Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic, the mouthpiece of Hizballah, publishes in its 18 November issue several statements and comments criticizing a reported Lebanese Government decision to reopen the case of the bombing of the headquarters of the U.S. Marines and French paratroopers in Beirut in 1983.

In a 2,500-word report on page 2 on a speech delivered by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah at a rally held in Beirut on 11 November to mark "Martyr's Day," the Hizballah chief is cited as saying: "Everybody knows that the Marines came to Lebanon to support the Israeli occupation and Israel's plan to dominate everything in this country. They came as occupation forces, and those who fought and bombed them are resistance martyrs who did it for the sake of our people."

Another 2,500-word report on page 8 cites Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Na'im Qasim as telling a similar rally in southern Lebanon that "the multinational forces came to Lebanon [in 1983] not to protect the Lebanese people, but to impose a mean system and to prepare for the 17 May agreement with the Zionist enemy." He reportedly added: "The two martyrs who blew themselves up deserve medals, not pursuit by the judiciary. Those who opened this case must be brought to trial because they do not respect the martyrs of this nation, who gave pride and dignity to every Lebanese, Arab, Muslim, and free man in the world." The Hizballah deputy chief reportedly went on: "America is still the big Satan and will continue to be so. It is not our fate for America to dominate us. We are the ones that make and implement our decisions, believing that blood triumphs over the sword. We will not be frightened by American plans. We will not abide by them; we will confront them. If the United States uses its capabilities and influence to force the world to do what it wants, it cannot impose its wishes on the mujahidin."

In a 400-word "An Official's View" column signed H. 'Awwad on page 12, Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Na'im Qasim is asked to comment on the reopening of the Marines and French paratroopers bombing case. He reportedly answers: "We found no logical or rational explanation for what we have heard about the reopening of the files of the Marines and the Frenchmen in Lebanon. When some sides contacted us to explain why the files were reopened, claiming that the issue is linked to administrative and routine matters, we found the explanation to be worse that the act itself." Qasim adds: "The Lebanese know full well that the heroism of the two martyrs of the Marines and Frenchmen operations saved Lebanon from a definitive Western domination on Israel's behalf." Qasim, however, belittles the importance of the decision: "In fact, we do not consider the decision of the Lebanese judiciary to be important or applicable on the ground," he says.

In his weekly column, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, former Hizballah secretary general, wonders in a 1,500 word article on page 10 what prompted the Lebanese regime "to pursue the most noble and honorable of men". He says: "We do not expect the state to have the honor of building a monument to immortalize their memory. But has it already decided its position, announcing that it is not for the resistance and does not view them as martyrs, but outlaws deserving punishment?" He adds: "On this occasion, we stress that a regime that wishes to be part of the fabric of its people must abide by the basis of this social fabric—respecting its martyrs, glorifying their heroism, serving and defending their families, building their country, and fighting their enemies—something the regime is not good at, or does not want to do."

A 500-word unsigned commentary on page 10 recalls former U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statement on the purpose of the U.S. Marines presence in Lebanon in 1983. It concludes that the bombing of the Marine headquarters "was a courageous act of resistance aimed at liberating the country from the new occupation". A return to this subject, the commentary says, "must be within the context of glorifying the two martyrs, who, together with their brothers, defeated the Atlantic forces and forced them to retreat empty handed, foiling the American-Zionist objective to invade Beirut."

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Hizballah Statement on Death of Iranian Scholar

NC3011073694 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A sad atmosphere prevailed in Lebanon this morning with the tragic news of the death of the great scholar Ayatollah Shaykh al-Araki, may his soul be sanctified.

The Islamic Committee has expressed its sadness and called for mourning assemblies to mark the event. Hizballah in al-Biqa' issued a statement saying: Acknowledging God's judgment we extend our condolences [words indistinct] Imam Mahdi, may God expedite his return, and his deputy Sayyid Khamene'i on the death of Ayatollah Shaykh Mohamed 'Ali al-Araki. [passage omitted]

Israelis Reportedly Refuse To Hand Over Bodies

NC2911180694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces this afternoon foiled an attempt to transfer the bodies of the three resistance men who were martyred in yesterday's clash on Arnun road, and they continued their acts of aggression against the liberated areas in the south, especially al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

At 1345 today, a mechanized occupation unit surrounded two ambulances for the al-Nabatiyah Charitable Society that went to Arnun to transfer the bodies of the three Islamic Jihad in Palestine members who were martyred yesterday in a clash with an enemy force on the Arnun road. An Israeli soldier was injured in the clash. The Israeli mechanized unit put the bodies in its military vehicles and transferred them to the occupied border strip. The unit asked the ambulance crews to go back.

Information was circulated in al-Nabatiyah this morning that the occupation forces allowed the International Red Cross to transfer the bodies of the resistance men to the liberated areas, prompting a large number of journalists to go to the town of Arnun to cover the operation. There, they found that the information was wrong and that the enemy insisted on keeping the corpses.

Meanwhile, the outskirts of Yahmur, Arnun, and Mazra'at al-Hamra' came under Israeli artillery shelling from the occupation positions in al-Zaffatah at 1500 today. Enemy positions in al-Dabshah also raked the al-Rahibat suburb of al-Nabatiyah with machine-gun fire.

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Syrian-European Cooperation Council Issues Statement

JN2911194494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brussels—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' addressed the first meeting of the Syrian-European Cooperation Council [SECC] in Brussels last night. [passage omitted] At the end of the meeting, a joint press release was issued. The following is the text:

The SECC held its first meeting on the ministerial level in Brussels on 28 November under Klaus Kinkel, Germany's foreign minister and current chairman of the European Union Council. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' led the Syrian delegation, while (Manuel Marine Gonzales), [deputy] head of the European Commission, represented the European Commission. Mrs. (Apoloski) represented the European Investment Bank.

The meeting enabled the EC and Syria to assess their relations within the framework of the agreement of cooperation between them. The meeting also provided an opportunity for holding discussions on political issues of joint interest. The discussions shed light on the importance of the existing cooperation between the EC and Syria and both parties' resolve to cement their future cooperation.

The press release said: The European Union [EU] and Syria share the same basic regional interests and have a joint interest in peace and security throughout the Mediterranean. Within the framework of a just, comprehensive peace, they also have a joint interest in regional cooperation and economic development for the sake of a constantly prosperous European-Syrian relationship.

The joint statement adds: The EU attaches great importance to progress on the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace process. The EU believes that Syria is committed to the achievement of peace with Israel, and welcomes and supports this commitment. The EU is closely following the efforts being exerted by both Syria and Israel to bridge the gaps between them on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle so that the negotiations can be resumed. The EU wishes them well. Both the EU and Syria hope for the possibility of achieving substantial progress in the near future. At the same time, they are aware of and appreciate the sensitivity of the issues that these negotiations will address. The two sides hope that the positive developments will also contribute toward the achievement of a progress on the Lebanese track.

With respect to financial cooperation, the European and Syrian sides note with satisfaction that the first and second protocols have been fully committed to, and that the executive program for the implementation of the current two protocols—the third and fourth protocols—have specified the sectors that will enjoy priority of action. Examining their trade relations and economic cooperation, the two sides noted that there is still room for further improvement and mutual benefit, with a special regard for the new dimension of the EU's future Mediterranean policy. The SECC praised the progress that was achieved with regard to the arrears. The EU welcomed Syria's desire to contribute toward resolving the issue of the remaining arrears for member states. Syria has been encouraged to proceed in this direction, using all available means. The SECC noted with interest the EU's readiness to expand its Mediterranean policy to include all Mediterranean partners, including Syria. It has been noted that the next European Council meeting in (?Isen) will stress the importance that the EU attaches to close relations with its Mediterranean partners and its resolve to promote these relations so that the Mediterranean basin will become a region of cooperation, peace, security, stability, and prosperity for peoples of the region.

The EU noted the importance it attaches to the European-Mediterranean conference which will be held during the second half of 1995. Aware of the relevance of this initiative to the issue, Syria will consider its participation in light of the progress that takes place on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

At the end of the meeting, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Klaus Kinkel, the current chairman of the European Council, held a joint news conference which was attended by representatives of Arab and foreign news agencies, radio stations, and television networks. They responded to reporters' questions, which focused on the results of the SECC meeting and the Middle East peace process.

Meanwhile, Klaus Kinkel held a dinner banquet in honor of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. It was attended by EU ministers, representatives of the European Commission, and members of the Syrian delegation. During the dinner, the Syrian and European sides held discussions on the peace process and Syria's important regional role in achieving security, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin. They also touched on some issues of joint interest. Views were in agreement regarding the importance of promoting Syrian-European relations in all economic, political, trade, technical, and cultural fields.

At the end of the dinner, Kinkel, speaking in his capacity as SECC chairman and German foreign minister, said: Taking this first step expresses our desire for a genuine partnership and friendship with your country, Syria, which plays an extremely important and key role in the Middle East. He added: We attach great importance to the EU's relationship with Syria. He asked al-Shar' to convey his greetings in his name and on behalf of the EU to President Hafiz al- Asad, who he said is a major and distinguished leader in the region.

Paper Reacts to Rabin's Washington Statements

JN3011105594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Nov 94

[From the press review]

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[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary under the headline "The U.S. Responsibility," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH considers Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement in Washington that Israel is not ready to pay the price of peace is premeditated intention to harm the U.S. role and gives a negative answer to Syria's questions which, had they received a positive reply, could have paved the way for pushing the peace process to achieve the aspired objective of establishing a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH stresses: If Rabin is not ready to pay the required price of peace, Syria will never accept peace at any price. It will continue to view U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour as part of the U.S. efforts to contribute to the success of the peace process. It will also respond to these efforts based on the principles which clearly express the will of the international community, and which are in harmony with the international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The success of Christopher's tour which is expected to take place next week will continue to depend on what he brings in the way of new ideas which reflect Israel's full response to the requirements of peace, particularly full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and western al-Biqa'.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria, which has several times said it will fulfill the requirements of peace, will not submit to any Israeli bargaining over principles and rights. The United States now needs to respond to the Israeli provocation represented by its indifference to the efforts to push the peace process forward.

State Minister Meets With ICO Secretary General

JN2811161194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, this morning received Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO].

The talks addressed the preparations under way for the convocation of the next ICO summit in Casablanca and the 22d ICO Ministerial Council meeting. The state minister and Algabid also reviewed the work of the fifth conference of the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization currently convening in Damascus.

The meeting was attended by Tahir al-Husami, head of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry.

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Afghanistan

ICO-Sponsored Peace Talks Begin in Tehran

LD2911172694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Fresh efforts to restore peace in Afghanistan began this morning in Tehran under the supervision of a representative of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general and with the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] The new round of indirect talks among the representatives of Afghanistan's jihadi groups, which began this morning in Tehran under the supervision of a representative of the ICO secretary general, continued this afternoon.

In this round of talks, authoritative representatives of the Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution and other jihadi groups of Afghanistan discussed ways of establishing a cease-fire and reaching a national consensus in Afghanistan in separate meetings with our country's Foreign Ministry officials and the ICO representative.

Also in a separate meeting, the ICO representative and the director general of our Foreign Ministry's Western Asia affairs department discussed ways of achieving a joint point view that is free from any support for any particular party or group.

In this meeting both sides agreed talks should be centered on three points: cease-fire, transitional government, and permanent government in Afghanistan.

At the end of this meeting, the representative of the ICO secretary general, having expressed appreciation for the efforts rendered by the Islamic Republic of Iran, called on leaders of Afghanistan's parties and groups to direct the talks toward a permanent cease-fire by resorting to restraint.

Several Factions Boycott ICO Peace Talks

BK3011061694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0600 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 30 (AFP)—Several Afghan factions, including those supporting beleaguered President Borhanoddin Rabbani, are boycotting peace talks in Tehran sponsored by the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO].

Masud Khalili, a representative for Rabbani here, told AFP on Wednesday [30 November] that the presidential delegation that was to go to the Tehran talks, which began Tuesday, had decided at the last moment not to attend.

He cited the participation in the talks of former communist regime General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam as the reason for withdrawing from the talks. Other factions have done likewise.

The talks are aimed at finding a political settlement to factional fighting in Afghanistan that has left some 7,000 dead since the beginning of the year when Dostam and ex-premier Golboddin Hekmatyar launched attacks on Kabul in an attempt to topple Rabbani.

According to Khalili and diplomatic sources here, the talks have been adjourned with no date set for their resumption.

Rasul Sayyaf, head of the pro-Saudi Ettehad-e Eslami faction, has also decided not to participate in the talks for the same reason.

Yunus Khales, chief of a breakaway group of the Hezb-e Eslami faction led by Hekmatyar, has refused to join in the talks, claiming that Iran has "interfered" in Afghanistan and backs Shiite Muslim groups.

Hekmatyar's group is participating in the talks.

The talks were proposed by Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at a meeting of his OIC counterparts here at the beginning of September.

All previous efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan have stalled on participation by Dostam, who controls several provinces in northern Afghanistan.

Hezb-e Eslami Ends Operation in Ghorband District

LD2911155594 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A seditious group associated with the infamous coalition administration, which was disrupting peace in the Fondoqistan area in Ghorband District [Parwan], was completely purged by the troops of the district's al-Nasr zone. In a wireless contact, an al-Nasr zone source told a correspondent of RPA [Radio Paygham-e Azadi] that during the operation—which was carried out the day before yesterday by Commander Qaysur Khan—all of the Fondoqistan area was cleared up of the hireling coalition individuals. Quoting Commander Qaysur Khan, the report adds that during the operation the group's ringleader Bashi Hashem was critically injured and only five of his men have been able to escape from the area. Apart from those, all other members of the groups announced their association with the ranks of Hezb-e Eslami forces. The source added that during this successful operation 70 Kalashnikovs, one ZK1 machine-gun, one DShK [antiaircraft machine-gun], two rocket launchers, one 82mm artillery, two PK machine-guns, four wireless sets [passage indistinct].

India

Official: Pakistan Sending Foreign Troops to Kashmir

BK3011044694 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan is inducting foreign mercenaries into Jammu and Kashmir to bolster the

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sagging morale of militant outfits. The director general of the BSF [Border Security Force], Mr. B.K. Arya, said this at a press conference in New Delhi today. The BSF chief said about 1,500 foreign mercenaries are now operating in Jammu and Kashmir. So far, 195 foreign mercenaries have been killed and 50 apprehended.

Ten Foreign Mercenaries Killed in Kashmir

BK3011093594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir valley, 10 foreign mercenaries were killed in an encounter with security forces in Bandipura last evening. According to an official spokesman in Srinagar, the killed included six Afghans, two Pakistanis, and two [figures as heard] Sudanese. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from the encounter site.

Iran

Grand Ayatollah Araki Dies; Country Mourns

Araki Death Announced

LD2911205894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. From Him we come and to Him we go [Koranic verse]. With great sorrow, we have been informed that His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Araki, the divine alim, the jurisconsult of the House of Purity and Innocence, the great source of emulation of the Shi'is of the world, bade farewell to the living world after a long illness despite the efforts of doctors.

Cabinet Issues Statement

LD2911222394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. From Him we come and to Him we go. The Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with great sorrow, expresses its condolences over the heart-rending death of the symbol of piety and virtuousness, the continuer of the path of great jurisconsults, the worthy reminder of the wise and knowledgeable ulema, the jurisconsult, the great source of emulation of Shi'is, His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Araki, may God have mercy on his soul, to the holy position of His Holiness the Lord of the Age [12th Shi'i imam]; his righteous deputy, the guardian of the cause of the world's Muslims, the honorable leadership, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i; the great sources; the learned ulema; seminary schools; all the Muslims and Shi'is of the world; the emulators of that esteemed being; and his noble family. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses condolences and declares Wednesday, 30 November as an official holiday and one week's national mourning throughout the country. [passage omitted]

Funeral Procession Held

LD3011105894 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—A funeral procession will be held for the Grand Ayatollah Araki at 13:00 hours local time (09:30 GMT) in front of Shahid Raja'i hospital Wednesday [30 November], said Ayatollah Musavi-Tabrizi. The procession will move towards the railways station, in downtown Tehran, where the grand ayatollah's body will be taken to the holy city of Qom to be laid to rest there.

In another development, a number of high-ranking political and religious authorities of the country attended Shahid Raja'i hospital Wednesday morning. President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis Speaker Nateq-Nuri, General Public Prosecutor Ayatollah Morteza Moqtada'i, Ayatollah Mehdi Karrubi and President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) 'Ali Larijani were among the officials.

Meanwhile, it was announced that an extra train will leave Tehran for Qom Thursday morning to take those who wish to participate in the funeral ceremony of the grand ayatollah in the holy city.

The Qom theological school and the bazaar in the city as well as the theological school of Mashhad were closed on Wednesday.

Khamene'i Sends Message to Family

LD3011114194 Tehran IRNA in English 1109 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday [30 November] condoled the departure of Grand Ayatollah Araki to the bereaved family of the grand ayatollah, the world Shiite Muslims and the Iranian nation especially Muslim ulema.

Praising the grand ayatollah's personality in his message, the leader referred to Grand Ayatollah Araki as a valuable divine treasure of the contemporary era. Pointing to the style of living of the grand ayatollah, the leader said that Grand Ayatollah Araki never tried to gain fame and popularity and that personal emotions never prevented him from treading the path of God.

Elsewhere in his message, the leader lauded Qom theological school as the base for the greatest revolution of the world which presented the world of Islam with a unique and brilliant personality such as Imam Khomeyni. Turning to the attempts made by the enemies of Islam against Qom theological school since a long time

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ago, the leader said that their efforts to isolate the seminary were intensified after the emergence of the Islamic movement in Qom.

The leader said that after the victory of the Islamic revolution, global arrogance and all enemies of Islam intensified their hostility against Qom theological school. However, the leader said, the theological school had managed to overcome all such conspiracies and had remained the center of attention for Muslim ummah especially the Shiite Muslims of the world.

UN Rep Condoles Khamene'i

LD3011094194 Tehran IRNA in English 0837 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 30, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi Tuesday [29 November] expressed condolences with the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, and world Muslims on the said departure of Grand Ayatollah Araki.

The centenarian grand ayatollah who was the marja', supreme leader of the world Shiite Muslims, passed away Tuesday night after being confined at Shahid Raja'i hospital here because of cerebral vascular accident on October 23. In a statement Kharrazi said that absence of the grand ayatollah was an irreparable loss to the world of Islam.

Mourning ceremonies are to be held in several cities in the United States on this occasion. Meanwhile, Majlis speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, Council of Guardians, Experts Assembly, Majlis deputies and the Jewish community of Iran sent messages of condolences to the leader of the Islamic revolution on the occasion.

Yazdi Sends Message to Khamene'i

LD3011121994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in a message to the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution [Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i], offered condolences on the demise of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Araki. The text of the message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution and the Muslims' source of emulation. May God maintain your shadow over the heads of all creatures.

I wish to offer my condolences to the lord of the era [the hidden imam], may our souls be sacrificed for him, and to you the great source of emulation and the leader of the velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the jurisconsult] system on the demise of Ayatollah Araki, the illustrious scholar and the lofty theologian, the Shiite source of emulation. At this sensitive juncture, when you, the esteemed leader and the fully qualified theologian, are in charge of leading the Muslims on behalf of the lord of the era—may God hasten his advent—I hope that the Islamic ummah, the world Muslims, and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will continue their evolutionary path to perfection under the blessing of your good health, your success, and your long life.

[Signed] Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judicial authority

Ahmad Khomeyni Makes Appeal To 'Save the Country'

MM2911145494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Nov 94 p1

[Unattributed report: "Ahmad Khomeyni Urges Montazeri To Help 'Save the Country'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the late Ayatollah Khomenyi, has urged one of his father's fiercest critics to "help save the country from disintegration." Tehran sources confirm that Ahmad made that appeal to Ayatollah Hoseyn Montazeri when he visited him at his home in Qom at a time of intensifying rivalry for the post of [highest religious] authority.

According to one of Montazeri's aides, Ahmad kissed the ayatollah's hand, asked his forgiveness, and appealed to him to help in organizing the "necessary forces to save the country from the catastrophes looming on the horizon."

Informed sources say that Montazeri's only reply was that he would pray to God to forgive everyone's sins.

That was the first meeting between Ahmad Khomeyni and Montazeri in eight years, in other words since 1986 when Ahmad visited Montazeri to pass an ultimatum to him from Ayatollah Khomeyni and ask him to stop criticizing the regime and to remain silent for at least two years "or face our sweeping revolutionary wrath."

Ahmad had played a central part in organizing the campaign against Montazeri as a result of which the latter was placed under house arrest.

A number of revolutionary mullas who were strong in the past have visited Montazeri in an attempt to weaken the government of "Supreme Leader" 'Ali Khamene'i.

It should be noted that Montazeri is one of the strongest candidates for the post of highest authority. Montazeri (73) spent the past eight years under house arrest in Qom but maintained a strong support base.

Rafsanjani Addresses Intelligence Ministry Members

LD2911123594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a meeting with the directors general and officials of the Special Department of

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the Intelligence Ministry, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: Attracting God's satisfaction and the people's trust and confidence in the Islamic system is the highest asset and reward for the unknown soldiers of this ministry.

According to the Central News Unit, the president stated: Full awareness on the part of Iran's spiteful enemies of the Islamic nature of Iran's revolution, and of its outstanding progress during the recent years in various political, economic, social, and cultural spheres, has caused them to create problems for Iran and harm it, using all their might and taking advantage of any opportunity and means.

He added: However, the enemies failed to understand this important point: that the Islamic system of Iran enjoys the support of the most loyal people in the world and a powerful internal firmness and dignity.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the safeguarding of the sacred values and aspirations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the protection of the security and tranquillity of society as a very difficult and sensitive mission which is at the same time valuable-.[passage omitted]

The president stressed the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran moves forward every day toward true advancement and independence, with huge popular support and the knowledge and efforts of benevolent and efficient officials, by severing the roots of dependence. He added: Attracting and reforming the handful of individuals, who have wittingly or unwittingly fallen into the propaganda trap of the enemies and the selfish desire of the materialistic people, is one of the most important and delicate missions of the intelligence and security apparatus of the country.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that awareness of the importance and sensitivity of working in the intelligence apparatus, the purification of desire, faithfulness to a secret, patience, the avoidance of extremism, devotion to action, and the observance of Islamic affection and kindness in their approaches and actions are among the important reasons for the successes of the law enforcement forces of the country and the Intelligence Ministry. [passage omitted]

Autopsy Performed on Imprisoned Writer Sirjani

LD3011115894 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—An official at coroner's office said here today that the death of Iranian author, 'Ali Akbar Sa'idi Sirjani, was due to coronary thrombosis and lung disease. He said that four medical examiners performed autopsy this morning to find the precise cause of his death. The result of the medical examination will be determined within 2-3 weeks, he said.

Bosnia's Izetbegovic Appeals for Help

LD2911164394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the intensification of the aggressive Serb militia's attacks against the Bihac region in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the complacency and indifference of the United Nations Organization and world bodies in safeguarding this region, which has been declared a so-called safe haven, Mr. Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, cabled a message today to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he described the situation of the Muslim people of Bihac as desperate and called on him to increase the international efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to put an end to the violent aggression of Serb forces against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In another part of the message, the Bosnian president pointed out the sorrowful situation of the region and said: I ask you to continue your international efforts more than before for the sake of the very difficult situation directly threatening the lives of over 200,000 civilians.

In response to this message, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today cabled a message to the heads of state of France and Germany, which are members of the International Contact Group, and called for immediate steps by the member states of that group to stop the new Serb aggression and put an end to the desperate situation of the oppressed and suffering people of Bihac.

In a part of the message, the president of our country spoke of the previous violations of agreements reached with the United Nations by Croatian Serbs regarding respect for the cease-fire and not openly invading its neighbor, the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and added: While Bihac, as a region declared by the United Nations to be a safe haven, is facing an extremely horrific tragedy, the international community has not made a noticeable move in the defense of the oppressed people of this region or to halt the spread of Serb aggression. Previous experience has shown that in the crisis of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the aggressor has never abided by recognized international laws. They have not only rejected the peace plan, they are now intending to occupy more ground.

The message of our country's president to the heads of state of France and Germany concludes by saying: Taking into account the current desperate situation, it seems that immediate action to halt this aggression is vital. Therefore, the International Contact Group is expected to increase its efforts in order to end this desperate situation.

Agreement Reached To Repatriate Bosnian Refugees

LD2911204994 Tehran IRNA in English 2025 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Iran and Bosnia are to make efforts mutually to repatriate

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Bosnian refugees based on an agreement reached in Zagreb on Monday [28 November] between Iranian Ambassador to Croatia Mohammad-Javad Asayesh and Bosnian minister of social affairs and Bosnian refugees.

At least one million Bosnians, including 107,000 children, have become homeless since May 22, 1992, when war erupted in the republic. The Bosnian official said that spread of battles across Bosnia, especially in Bihac, had disrupted donation of help in the republic.

Asayesh condemned international community's indifference towards Serbs' aggression and massacre in Bosnia, especially in Bihac.

He added that Iran through diplomatic means would try to prevent continuation of Serbs' aggression on Muslim people in Bihac.

Caspian Sea Data Bank To Be Established

LD2911201594 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nowshahr, Mazandaran Province, Nov. 29, IRNA—Iran and Russian Federation reached agreement on establishment of the joint Caspian Sea data bank by next year, deputy head of the center for research and study on water resources Arsalan Mansouri announced here Monday [28 November].

Mansouri said the decision on establishment of the center was made following the fourth Tehran-Moscow Scientific and Technical Cooperation Commission Session which was held in Tehran early November.

He added that, with allocation of rls. 350 million in credit, research will be conducted on the Caspian Sea and investigations will be made into destructive effects of water encroachment in coastal regions of the northern Iranian provinces.

Daily Comments on Caspian Sea Oil Deal

LD2911142494 Tehran IRNA in English 1224 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—A morning daily Tuesday [29 November] editorialized on Caspian Sea oil deal signed by Azerbaijan saying that the deal came despite Russia's objections on the grounds of the absence of legal regime on the one hand and incidents such as the aborted Ganjeh coup d'etat on the other.

"Alongside these developments, Azerbaijan is determined to grant a share to its neighbors, since Russia and particularly Iran, have vast practical experience in oil drilling, making them very important regional partners for Azerbaijan," the english-language 'IRAN NEWS' added.

Even though Azerbaijan will grant 10 percent of the consortium's shares to Russia as hush money, Russian groups and individuals, such as the foreign minister have abstained from officially recognizing the deal, it said adding that, in fact, Russia has declared that it does not recognize unilateral cooperation in the Caspian Sea without a legal regime.

"Azerbaijan has also successfully endeavored to win the attention of Iran...contrary to public-especially western and Russian-expectation, Azerbaijan granted one quarter of its 20 percent share to Iran." In return, Iran is to render financial and technical assistance to Azerbaijan and will thus invest in exploitation of the region's oil resources. The move is advantageous for Iran, enabling it to have a more active presence in the region, but certain questions pop up in regard to the whole scheme, the article continued.

First, the consortium members should approve the handover of one quarter of Azerbaijan's share to Iran, it said and added that since the western firms hold the majority of the shares, this seems highly unlikely, so, what binding guarantees have been offered to Iran's oil ministry?

Second, the paper stressed, even if the consortium members approve the move, Iran will be accused of overlooking the Caspian Sea's undefined legal regime whose formulation has for long been advocated by Tehran. "If a protocol is to be signed, Iran will firmly adhere to its principles," it underlined and concluded by saying that, however, so long as the five littoral states of the Caspian Sea do not agree on the legal regime, the sea-bed resources cannot be exploited by any party.

Riyadh Embassy Rejects British 'Hostile' Remarks

LD2911231094 Tehran IRNA in English 2255 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in Riyadh in a statement Tuesday [29 November] rejected the hostile remarks by British ambassador in Saudi Arabia who alleged that Iran was a threat to Saudi Arabia.

Such remarks, the statement said, were in line with the colonialist policies of Britain in the region.

The embassy was referring to the November 1 statements of the British ambassador in Saudi Arabia who said that Britain still considered Iran and Iraq as a quintessential threat to Saudi Arabia.

The British ambassador further stressed that Riyadh was being threatened by its neighbors, adding that countries such as Saudi Arabia needed to defend themselves.

The statement said that the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Riyadh while refuting such fabrications which appeared in the Saudi GAZETTE, stressed that Iran posed no threat to Saudi Arabia.

It further added that the British ambassador was openly trying to sow discord between the two Muslim countries of the region.

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The British ambassador, noted the statement, and even people of the region knew well that the region had inherited many of its current problems and disputes from the presence of British forces and colonialist policies of that country.

Stressing that there was no border dispute or major problem between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the statement said that the two countries had never threatened each other. It noted that if conspiracies and ill-intentioned policies that Britain was pursuing in the region did not exist, Muslim states could manage to tackle their own problems.

Fortunately, the old diplomacy of 'divide and rule' which Britain adhered to was known to the people of the region who had a bitter experience of the presence of British colonialists in this part of the world, it noted.

The statement said that the British ambassador was fully aware of the fact that the reason behind British arms policies in the region was not Iran's threats rather, by resorting to such claims, Britain intended to materialize its own material interests.

Nepal

New Government Cabinet Appointed

BK3011044194 Hong Kong AFP in English 0422 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Nov 30 (AFP)—The Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) government's cabinet:

Full Ministers.	
Mana Mohan Adhikari:	Prime Minister, royal palace affairs
Madhav Kumar Nepal:	Deputy Prime Minister, Defence and Foreign Affairs
Khadga Prasad Oli:	Home
Chandra Prakash Mainali:	Local Development and Supply
Bharat Mohan Adhikari:	Finance
Radha Krishna Mainali:	Agriculture and Land Reform
Modh Nath Prachand:	Education, Social Welfare and Culture
Pradip Nepal:	Communications and Information
Padma Ratna Tuladhar:	Labour and Health
State Ministers	
Ashok Kumar Rai:	Transport and Public Works
Salim Miya Ansari:	Forest and Soil Conservation
Prem Singh Dhami:	Physical Planning and Housing
Subash Chandra Nemwang:	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
Bhim Bahadur Rawa:	Commerce, Tourism and Civil Aviation
Hari Prasad Pandey:	Water Resources and Industry

New Prime Minister Holds News Conference

BK3011010894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1730 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Nov 29 (AFP)—King Birendra on Tuesday [29 November] appointed Nepal's first communist premier, naming 74-year-old Mana Mohan Adhikari to head a minority government after elections resulted in a hung parliament.

Adhikari, chairman and parliamentary leader of the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), was appointed prime minister after a meeting with the monarch late Tuesday, it was officially announced.

During an hour-long talk with the king, Adhikari explained the communist government's socio-economic and political plans and programmes, Adhikari said at a news conference late Tuesday.

He said his government's first priority would be to strengthen democracy in Nepal.

Asked how he was going to implement communism in Nepal when communists had failed in the Soviet Union and elsewhere, Adhikari said, "We think communism, Marxism, or Leninism as philosophical matters only, and the success depends on how we relate it with one country's reality."

He takes the helm of a minority government, after elections two weeks ago failed to throw up a single victor and protracted haggling failed to create a majority coalition or an anti-communist alliance among opposition groups.

The NCP-UML won 88 seats in mid-term elections two weeks ago, 15 less than the minimum needed to command a parliamentary majority.

But a minority government became inevitable after talks with the former ruling party, the Nepali Congress (NC), failed to find an alliance. The Congress, which won 83 seats, and rightwing Rastraya Prajatantra Party (RPP) also could not agree on a coalition to keep out the communists.

A special ceremony is to be held at the royal palace on Wednesday to swear in the country's first communist administration, officials said.

Adhikari, in addition to the premiership, will also take the portfolio of defence minister and take charge of royal palace affairs, party sources said.

He said the party would appoint the NCP-UML's General Secretary, Madhav Kumar Nepal, as deputy prime minister, but he did not say how big his cabinet would be nor did he give the names of his cabinet ministers and their portfolios.

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Nepal had earlier said he expected to be foreign minister as well.

Nepal said his party's standing committee was meeting to finalize a list of proposed cabinet members.

The formation of a communist-led cabinet came one step closer to realisation when the NC on Monday announced its inability to patch together a coalition government with a rightist party.

NC spokesman Taranath Ranabhat told reporters that the group had opted instead to act as the major opposition party. "When our efforts to form a coalition government after the mid-term polls failed, we decided to function as a major political opposition in parliament to help stabilize democracy," Ranabhat said.

"As the nation cannot afford to go to the polls frequently, we have decided to play the role of a strong opposition and let the NCP-UML remain in government for the next five years," he said.

The NCP-UML should be only six seats short of a majority as it will have the support of the pro-Indian Nepal Sadvhabana Party (NSP) and other left oriented MPs.

The Congress is expected to abstain when a first vote of confidence is held 30 days after the formation of the new government.

Nepal said the cabinet would be 20 ministers maximum but could be enlarged if the confidence vote is successfully passed.

Biography of New Prime Minister Outlined

BK3011063894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0554 GMT 30 Nov 94

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Nov 30 (AFP)—Mana Mohan Adhikari has impeccable credentials as a freedom fighter, but as a 74-year-old grandfather he now faces one of his biggest challenges at the head of Nepal's first communist government.

Like Nelson Mandela in South Africa or Kim Yong-sam in South Korea, Adhikari has spent long periods in jail. Just like Mandela and Kim he will now find out that governing is not so easy—especially from a minority position in parliament, analysts predict.

Adhikari was incarcerated for fighting British rule in India in the 1940s and the autocratic family of rulers in his home country in the 1950s.

He spent 15 years in jail in all, 18 months of that in India under British rule. When way past retirement age, Adhikari was still active trying to bring down Panchayat system that gave Nepal's King Birendra and his father virtually unfettered rule by decree up to 1990.

Five-hundred people, many of them communist supporters, were killed in the campaign that ended with Birendra becoming a constitutional monarch.

Adhikari joined with the right wing Nepali Congress to press for democracy and he will now be counting on them for survival in parliament over the next few months.

Adhikari was born in June 1920 and was a science student at the Benaras Hindu University. But his main science became the revolutionary works of Lenin and Marx.

In the early 1940s he took part in the movement to end British rule in India. After his 18 months in prison, he was again active in the labour and student movement.

He returned to his native Biratnagar in Nepal in 1947 and joined labour rights activists there. That earned him another three year stint in prison.

After his release, Adhikari joined up with Marxist leader Pushpa Lal Shretha to launch a people's movement against the hereditary Rana regime which ruled Nepal for 104 years up to 1951.

That movement was supported by the grandfather of King Birendra, and was helped by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Eventually then Rana family handed over power to King Tribhuvan who declared a constitutional democracy.

Adhikari became general secretary of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) in 1953, the year he married Sadhana Nradhan Adhikari, with whom he has had a son and a daughter.

In 1960, King Mahendra dismissed the country's first elected government and Adhikari then joined the campaign against the Panchayat partyless system of government.

That struggle, which ended with Birendra agreeing to become a constitutional monarch 30 years later. With political parties again allowed, Adhikari became head of the unified Leninist-Marxist wings of the NCP.

He was reelected chairman of the NCP-United Marxist Leninist (NCP-UML) in 1992 when the party was already well established in the fledgling Nepalese parliament.

Adhikari has been at pains to reassure Nepal's middle class and the country's main aid backers that he will not pursue traditional Marxisit-Leninist policies.

Nepal's pragmatic communists want to encourage business and attract more investors from abroad. His most radical step promises to be to abolish a wealth tax and make new land reforms. But like many political leaders before him, Adhikari is likely to find it just as easy to fall from the top government post in the Himalayan kingdom as it was difficult to get there.

The Congress party—only five seat short of the communists 88—will give only tacit support to the government while remaining in opposition. And the Congress already has a sizeable wing that would rather have tried to form a new government than let the country's veteran freedom fighter get a chance to lead.

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